



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
March 2004

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Nebraska Women of Today:

As I write this last Gavel article as your State President, it hardly seems possible that we are at the end of another Women of Today year. Nebraska Women of Today closes out our year on April 1st so be sure that anything that your chapter needs to have sent in to state officers is postmarked by that date.

There are several United States Women of Today competitions and certifications that have a May deadline so ask your chapter president to check the last chapter mailing from our USWT Officers and see what can still be sent in. Our National convention will be held June 10-13 in Boston. There are several of our members that are planning to attend.

I hope that your chapter's March Madness M-Nights were successful. It's not too late to still sign up a new member for this year and extend to that individual the experiences that Women of Today has to offer.

I hope that each member has gained something new from participating in Women of Today this year. It has been an exciting year for me and I've learned many new things even after 23 years in our organization! Chapter elections have been or will be held soon. Please consider being an officer in your chapter and gaining new leadership skills through doing so.

April 18-24 is Volunteer Recognition Week. Congratulations to every one of you for the service that you provide to your communities through the hours and dollars that you donate. Give yourself a pat on the back.

Our Annual Convention is April 30 – May 2, 2004 in Kearney, NE. This is an exciting convention as we are celebrating our successes this year and electing new officers and starting another new year. Plan now to attend.

Thank you to everyone that has been such a special part of this year. Having served as your state president has been full of precious memories that I will always treasure. We have found many rainbows this year and Nebraska Women of Today has a "Promise for Tomorrow".

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MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

My fellow members,

As of March 31st, we end but another year in the history of Nebraska Women of Today. How are our **renewals** coming in, as these are **due** to me as of April 15th? How are the **recruitments** (new members), these are due to me April 1st? Is Nebraska going to show **growth** as of April 1st?

As I stated in my last article we have 78 members up for **renewal** this quarter. I hope everyone is working on retaining these members. I also hope every chapter has held an M-Night during the month of March and recruited new members. In my last article, I had stated that I had many challenges for this last quarter, that I wanted each of you to strive for: 1) March – **Promises for Tomorrow** - Each member that recruits a member during this month will have a chance to win a “Pampering Basket”, drawing will be held at Annual Convention; 2) April – **End of the Rainbow** - Each chapter that ends their year with Base +5 will have a chance to win a “Golden Basket of Goodies”. Here again, drawing will be held at Annual Convention; 3) Chapter members attending Fall Convention also accepted an individual challenge – if challenge is met, they will be recognized at year end. These members that complete this challenge will receive a “Party Basket”.

We also have three chapters that took the challenge of recruiting ten members this year, they were: Beatrice, Benkelman and Lincoln. The chapters that complete this challenge will have dinner on me!

During the month of March, we celebrated **March Madness**, which is emphasis month on National level. If your chapter ran a M-Night, please send me an invitation and your chapter will receive a special incentive at Annual Convention.

Now, don't forget you have until April 30th, to meet the following National challenges that have been set forth: 1) March – **Join the Champions** (Each member that recruits a member will have a chance to win a “Bath and Body Works Basket” – Name will be drawn at National Convention; 2) April – **Go For The Gold** – Each chapter will receive a challenge from National, if chapter shows growth at year end, the chapter will have a chance to win 25 \$1 gold coins; 3) Chapter members attending Mid Year also accepted an individual challenge – if challenge is met, they will receive Hershey Gold Nuggets.

At this time I would like to thank everyone in our state for giving me the chance of serving as your membership vice president. I enjoyed laying out the ground work of challenges, but remember it takes all of our members to “**work together as one**” to create the growth of Nebraska Women of Today.

I am looking at celebrating growth at our Annual Convention, so please get out in those communities this last week of March and raise our member figures by retaining our seasoned members and recruiting those new members.

Maxine Turner
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Fun in the Sun”
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Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Can you believe that we are at the end of the year already? I don't know where it went. Thank you for allowing me to be your Programming Vice President. I had a great time with all of you this year.

Please get all of your paper work to me postmarked April 1st. We want this last quarter to go out with a bang. If you have any questions or need any forms, please let me know. I hope to see you all in the Kearney April 30th for Annual Convention.

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Parliamentarian

This article has important information in it PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

January Convention gave us an opportunity to brush up on Parliamentary Procedure, Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Nebraska Women of Today. I however let one slip by me.

1. We (membership) voted to approve a dues increase, which by our Bylaws we could not do. The correct Parliamentary Rules state that anything in the Bylaws requires a thirty (30) day written notice prior to the vote. **SO HERE IT IS !!** The proposal reads “The Nebraska Women of Today increase dues to \$20.00 effective May 1, 2004.” The reason for the dues proposal is that U.S.W.T. is asking at June National Annual Convention for a dues increase from each member. Nebraska has not increased dues in the past 15 years. The proposed increase would cover the National increase; the extra would boost the Nebraska Treasuries.
2. There was also a recommendation from the Programming committee thru Future directions to realign the Programming Area. The Programs would be shifted around. ES/ EW would go into P.E.P. STEP and Chaplin would stay the same. Make a Wish, Aid to Foster Children and National Program would become External Programming. Outstanding Young Woman would move under Convention Chairman. The Programming Vice President would cover the rest. This proposal would move our Programs more in line with what National has set up as division among Program Managers. It

would assure that the information is getting to the correct persons on our State level.

The Programming area is covered in Standing Rules and can be voted on at Annual Convention. This information needs to be shared and discussed at your local meetings and then you can make your votes in an informed manner in Kearney. IF you have any questions or need clarification feel free to contact me. See you all soon.

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Secretary

Ladies,
This will be my last article as Secretary and I have some information about the National Buckets of Sunshine. This year we will be donating to the Kennedy Donovan Center, at National Convention in Boston, which will be held on June 10th through the 13th. I'm asking for monetary donations, because I will be flying to Boston and I wouldn't have enough room to take items. Anyone wanting to donate can give it to me at the State Convention on April 30-May 2 in Kearney. If you are not attending please send to me. I would also like to thank you for letting me serve as a your secretary this year. I've enjoyed meeting many of you and looking forward to the next year.

Cindy Urlacher
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TREASURER

As our Women of Today year begins to wind down, remember to get the books closed out and audited, but perhaps more importantly; please take this opportunity within your local chapter to develop some new leaders. Share what you have learned this year serving as local treasurer, and help provide the tools *up and coming* chapter officers, need to succeed. Take someone under your wing and show them how to set up the chapter budget, review any tax questions they might have (refer to that mailing I sent to all chapter treasurers earlier this year), review chapter financial status and help them set up goals for next year. It will be well worth your effort, to help develop leadership abilities in another member, and ensure your chapter's success. I would like to thank you for serving your local Women of Today organization as local treasurer this past year. If any of you are considering a position on the State Board, please let me know if you have questions about being State Treasurer. I would be happy to help you progress to the next level within this great organization! I would also like to thank President Joyce, for setting an outstanding example of leadership this year. Her

communication and organizational skills are second to none, and the entire State Organization benefited as a result. If you would like to purchase any State Store logo items, you can get a store order form from the NE Women of Today website. These items will also be available for sale at annual convention in Kearney. If you or your chapter members have an idea for a new ways & means item you would like to see in the store-all suggestions are welcome.

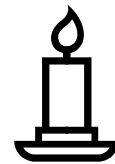
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Chaplain/Focus on Women/Women in General Nebraska Women Of Today,

Just a reminder that the "God in My Life" Essay is due to me April 1st. Also I am asking that chapters consider making a yellow ribbon and bring it to convention, I am trying to get 305 yellow ribbons for my sign post outside of my house for my son David's unit who is in the Middle East. They are Unit 305 and there are 305 soldiers in the unit. I have asking different groups in my community and I am now asking you, my Women of Today friends. Looking forward to seeing everyone at convention in Kearney in May.

Vickie Penner
God is the Light of the World
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AID TO FOSTER CHILDREN/MAKE-A-WISH PROGRAM MANAGER

As the year is flying by remember my last challenge for Ne Friends of Foster Children. A quarter for every mode of transportation that you have that has wheels. You should all feel very proud of the donations that have been given this year for both causes. I would like to send checks off by the first of April but if you are planning on presenting a check at Annual convention that will be just wonderful too. God bless everyone for taking part in raising funds for both of these wonderful causes.

Peggy Doering-- Remember the underline that goes between my first and last name if you are using my email.

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SUCCESS THROUGH ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION

Happy Spring!

Wow did this year fly by. It seems like we just started Joyce's year and it has almost come to a close. I appreciate all of you that have sent in your certifications this year, but I do look forward to getting a few more. You still have time. I have received another STEP I certification. I am glad that the new members are really jumping right in and getting their feet wet. This is such a great organization. Remember, we only have a month to go to get your certifications sent in as well as year end competition. If you have any questions about this, please let me know and I will try to answer questions and if I do not know the answer I will be in contact with my program manager or President Joyce. It has been a fun year and thanks again to all of you who did turn in their certifications. Hope to see you all at convention.

Diane Lux
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Region Directors

Region II

When you do something, do it right and do it well. I have taken on the task of being your Region 2 director and really enjoyed myself. I encourage ladies in this area to look at this as an opportunity to serve others right here in your own territory. Region 2 will be hosting a Death By Chocolate Fun Night on Saturday, March 6th in Imperial. We hope to not only enjoy ourselves as we play games and chat- and of course eat- but we also hope to get some interest started in Imperial. This will take place at M and M Natural Jaz in Imperial. The local radio and newspaper are at it again advertising for us. Also, the hope is that in April we will be at Strikers for a Region social and possible training from a current region officer down the road. We look forward to growing and going. See you at convention- I hope!!

Cyndi Bahler
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Chairman of the Board

Ladies,

Remember **April 1st** is the filing deadline for anyone seeking to be a state officer or program manager for the year 2004-05. 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.

Don't forget the **Buy-A-Plaque** program is in progress. Please take some time and ask local businesses or individuals if they would be willing make a donation to assist in purchasing our year-end awards. The name of any individual or business making a donation will appear on the plaque. The cost to sponsor a plaque is \$18. All checks should be made payable to the Nebraska Women of Today and sent to me by **April 10, 2004**. Make sure to also include the name of the business or individual, as it should appear on the plaque. I am still waiting for my mailbox to fill up with Chapter History forms. Please, Please, Please take a few minutes, even if it is during your meeting, and have your past chapter presidents complete the form. I so badly want to reward you for your time and effort. I will accept your submissions until **April 15**, so no excuses.

Current State Board members: I am awaiting your Outstanding State Personnel folders. The deadline is **April 1, 2004**. It is a great way to look back at what you have achieved over the year, and it helps guide members who serve in the position after you.

Thank you for your efforts throughout the year.

Kim Troutd
"A Work of Heart"
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Convention Chairman

It is March and the year is moving right along. Just want to remind everyone of the upcoming "A Promise for Tomorrow" Annual convention to be held at the Ramada Inn in Kearney April 30 - May 2, 2004. The room rate for the Ramada is as follows: Rates \$ 56.00 1-4 people. Make your room reservations before April 1, 2004 to guarantee this rate. Their phone numbers are: 1-308-237-3141 or 1-800-652-1909. Early registration is: \$33 and late (after April 16th) is \$37. We will also hold a new old board breakfast on Sunday morning if you would like to attend. This will be an extra \$10.00. Make checks payable to the Nebraska Women of Today. Please see the Nebraska web site for the form. I want to thank the Heartland and Lincoln Women of Today for hosting our Summer convention this year. The other three were all state hosted. Hosting a convention can be a lot of fun and a great way to get everyone involved in what the state organization does. If your chapter would be interested in hosting a convention please look in the Guide for Action on the Nebraska Web site or just give me a call and I will help you. Your chapter may also wish to take over a convention that the state already has a hotel secured. You just need to submit the form two conventions ahead of time so we can accept the change. If you are interested in taking on the job of Convention Chairman, which by the way is really fun, you can give me a call and I will tell you just what it entails.

Terri Sherman
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Just as a reminder, any chapter who has not already turned in members who have never attended any convention, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY! This will automatically put those ladies into a drawing for a free registration.

Thank you,

Cyndi

fax to 308-882-7725

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Lamar, NE 69033

WEBMASTER

Thanks for inviting me to your convention in Grand Island. I hope the session will help you get a site started for your chapter and those ideas can flow to the state site.

I have made a major change on the Calendar Page. This is an interactive calendar that you can post your own meetings and events on. I won't be updating this calendar any longer, so it's up to YOU to make sure your events are posted.

The next major change will be to add a Projects page. This page will allow chapters to post successful project summaries so other chapters can get ideas for their communities. We'll let you know when the page is ready to go.

Finally, congratulations to Angela who FINALLY won the drawing from the web page. She received a nice CD/DVD storage rack.

GAVEL EDITOR

Ladies,

It's hard to believe that I am completing the last issue in President Joyce's "Promises" year. She has done a wonderful job leading us this year and I want to say, A Big Thanks Joyce, it been a wonderful year! You are truly the personification of what Women of Today are all about. I can hardly wait to celebrate the year, first in May in Kearney then in June in Boston!

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Chapter chatter/Friendship Corner

Heartland

We are busy wrapping up our year, but are not slowing down. We had a Welcome Tea for our "Lil Sis" Chapter Nebraska City, and are organizing our Easter Egg Hunt, we have an M-Nite next week and we'll finish out President Angelique's year at our Awards Banquet in April. We expect 4-5 members in attendance at the Year-End Convention in Kearney, and 5-6 members are planning to head to Boston for the National Convention in June.
Sonya Hurkman

Nebraska City

Nebraska City Women of Today are proud to welcome 1 new member – Melanie Baltensperger. A "Chocolate Fantasy" M-Night was held with 3 guests present.

Nebraska City will be volunteering some time to help set up the new River Country Nature Center in April and we have also donated funds to help a family in Nebraska City with a raffle project. Another fundraiser is in the works with Village Inn pie sales.

Joyce Harpster

Wauneta

We are having a great year. We just gained a new member, we would like to welcome Leslie Lee to our group. We are going to have a couple of Membership drives in March and have started planning our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Hope to see everyone at convention.

Sunni Nordhausen

When I joined Women of Today I was a very shy person, and this organization has helped me to get out of the shyness. I have many role models who have encouraged me to take this next step. I'm very excited about the challenges that may be ahead of me. This organization has helped me in many successes and that is why I am seeking the office of Nebraska Woman of Today State President.

Cindy Urlacher

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