



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
October/November 2003

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Nebraska Women of Today,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Nebraska's two newest chapters - Nebraska City Women of Today extended by Heartland and Highway 40 Women of Today extended by Wauneta. I have been reminded as Nebraska City gets started that we have to take one step at a time as a new chapter. We can't run all of the programs, fundraisers and participate in all of the state and national projects that an established chapter does. It is wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm of these new chapters. Congratulations to all of you!

By the time you receive this Gavel our state convention will be upon us. It is October 17th and 18th in Benkelman. I hope that those who are attending have a great time (there is still time to register!) and that those of you who were unable to attend will think about attending our Winter Convention in Grand Island. The state conventions are a great opportunity to make new friends and to receive recognition for all that we do. Our National President, Karen Irwin, will be attending our winter convention and we will also be awarding Nebraska's Outstanding Young Woman. The date is January 23, 24, and 25, 2004.

I would like to encourage any Nebraska Women of Today member to submit a medallion nomination. If there is someone in your chapter who is putting forth an outstanding effort, just send me her name and why she should receive this award. A medallion is not just for officers - it is for all deserving members! You don't need to use the form - e-mail or snail mail would be fine.

Make a Difference Day is October 25, 2003. Make a Difference Day is a national day of helping others. Since we are all volunteers we know that we are making a difference in our communities and state.

Family Week will be coming up in November. This gives us a chance to really focus on our families and what they mean to us.

I hope that all members take the time to read through the entire Gavel. It is packed with information from our state officers and also has information about what our chapters are doing. If you have a question about a particular area or program, contact that state officer - they would be thrilled to answer your questions. Also be sure and check out our website at www.nbwt.org.

As I made my report at National Convention on what Nebraska has been doing, I was so proud to be representing all of you. This has been a fantastic year for me. Thank you all. Keep searching for those rainbows!

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



MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Ladies,

I just came back from the U S Women of Today Mid Year, and I have been energized for the rest of the year. I'm sorry more members could not have attended. But the six that spent the 7 ½ hours in the van going and coming from this convention, enjoyed each other's friendship.

Did you ever stop and think what it means to be a Women of Today member? I really never gave it much thought, as I took the friendships that I had made throughout the state and nation for granted. I sometimes thought about the differences we make in our communities, when we work together as a team. But never thought much about my membership.

I really started to think about the meaning of being a Women of Today member, when I found the installation that I used for the new members in Nebraska City. That installation stated that *being a member was a solemn occasion – a time for us to dedicate ourselves to the Women of Today Creed*. It also stated that a *Woman of Today member is always ready and willing to assist her/his fellow Women of Today members*. I have seen many of our members at a fellow members beacon call when they needed help, such as a death of a parent or sibling, sickness in a family. Or, even just to watch each other's siblings, so that we can spend time for ourselves. Our *members grow in leadership ability*, which our members do when attending a Personal Enrichment Course, Women in General or Focus on Women seminar. Our members can even grow by holding offices on their local, state or national boards. Oh, wait – how about the time you chair or co-chair a project. The installation also stated *gain lasting friendships and grow individually*, how many of us have gained lasting friendships with members in our chapters or other chapters across the state. How many of our members have grown individually through this organization, I can say that I did. It also stated to *be Proud of this organization to which we belong*, if we're proud of this organization we need to be out in our communities or surrounding communities promoting this organization every chance that we get. I believe Heartland and Wauneta did this, when they extended those two new chapters. We should be out there promoting membership every time we have the chance. Without these two extensions, our members have only recruited two new members so far this year. I know there are chapters out there that need some energizing, so please go out and start recruiting. Just think the time you spend on recruiting or working on an extension, will come back to you two folded. A new member will bring energy and new ideas with them for your chapter. The last line of the installation stated, *as you grow, so does the Women of Today organization*, now I ask have you grown individually, if so why has our state not show growth for the past couple of years. I want each of you to think about the words in this paragraph, as I have thought about them for the past couple of weeks.

Now, we will have a chance to do a big membership drive during the month of December. There are two challenges out on the table for our membership, so please plan some type of M-Night in December. National is promoting the "**BirthDay Blizzard**" for our national president Karen. And, state is promoting the "**BirthDay Promises**" for our state president

Joyce. Every one that signs a member during the month will be put into a drawing for a beautiful hand stitched "Snowflake Quilt" on the national level. And your name will also be put into a drawing on the state level. The prize will be revealed at our Fall State Convention.

At the end of October, half of our year is over with. We need to go and promote Women of Today through extensions or recruiting members for our chapters. I am **challenging** each of you to submit a prospective member's name into me, please list address and town. I am going to see if we can come up with some possible extensions to work on in our state. "Rising Membership" in Women of Today

Maxine Turner
"Raising Membership
Fun in the Sun"
maxtaj@yahoo.com



Secretary

Hello Ladies,

Convention is fast approaching and I'm still waiting for information from the chapters. I would like everyone to send pictures for PR. so I can start a book and show at the Conventions on all the work that you do. I will be having a table at Fall Convention and I will have lots of information on Secretary/ Public Relations. I would like you to bring your chapter brochures at Fall Convention for my display board that I will be having at the Project fair. Chapter brochures are a good tool for Public Relations and another good tool would be to wear your chapter shirt to functions, because every time I wear mine I always am asked about what Women of Today Is? Let's get our name out.

Cindy Urlacher
" The Minutes of Our Lives"
curlacher66@msn.com



LPA President

Hello Ladies,

I received a couple first quarter and second quarter Fast Starts! Way to go!! I have also received the Success System from a couple of chapters! As the Holiday Season approaches things start to pick up. Please keep me posted on your winter projects and your holiday parties!!! Perhaps I can make a few.

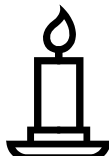
Denise Deter
"Retrieving Success"
nise_deter@yahoo.com.



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

I can't believe that this year is half way over. Where has the time gone? I am not going to be able to attend the next Convention that is coming up. I have changed jobs as you have heard and I can't get off to come, so I am hoping that I will be at the following convention. Well enough of that you all know that if you have held any Women in General Programs you should turn those in so you can get recognized for the outstanding programs that you have held in your chapters, if you have any question let me know and I will help you fill out the form it is very easy. Also if your chapter has gone to church or did a family time program send this in to me, and you will get recognized at the next convention. As you all know the last convention of the year is the convention that we do God in my life competition so be thinking of something that has happened in your life that you would like to share with all of us wonderful ladies. Also in the last Gavel I put in some information about the National competition I would like to see at least three ladies from our great state compete in this area if you have any questions let me know and I will get you the information. The topic is "What Woman 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 enclose each copy in a binder or folder. I am letting you know so you can think about what you are going to write. Well that is all for now but keep in touch and I will talk to you soon.

Vickie Penner
God is the Light of the World
penney2@web-unwired.com



REMEMBER FALL CONVENTION IN BENKELMAN OCTOBER 17-18th!

SUCCESS THROUGH ENTHUSIASTIC
PARTICIPATION
Happy Fall!!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler nice weather. What a break from all of that hot, hot summer. I would like to encourage everyone to look over the forms that I will be having in the chapter packets at this convention. I felt that possibly some chapters did not have the STEP certification forms; therefore I will be having them put in packets. Hopefully this will encourage more members to take advantage and look at these and fill them out. I know alot of you have certified, it is just a matter of filling out the forms. I did receive one certification this quarter. I will not be able to attend convention this time so I will recognize this member at Winter convention. Hopefully I will be hearing from more members this next quarter. Not alot of other news but if anyone has any

questions in regards to STEP, please contact me, I would be glad to help and answer any questions.

Diane Lux
bl30428@alltel.net



Outstanding Young Woman Ladies,

Hope you are all having a great autumn, I know I am. I love this time of year, but my thoughts are on more than just the pretty colours. I set a goal to have five candidates for OYW this year, and as of now I have one! While I am very happy to have one I need some more entries. I trust you all have an excellent candidate in mind and just haven't filled out the forms yet, which is fine. Just be working on them as the deadline, December 1st will be here before you know it. If your chapter can't decide whom to nominate, consider holding a mini-competition with in your chapter.

Remember that by nominating a woman for this honor 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 honor! 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 II



Region II Hello There,

As Region 2 Director I have had the privilege of welcoming new members and the new Hiway 40 Women of Today Chapter. We look forward to a strong representation from the region as we all head to Benkelman, NE for convention. You are welcome to make a fun filled weekend out of your trip and I know that the gals would be happy to entertain. I hope to be doing more activities around the area. We are trying radio ads and fliers as a means of recruitment in Imperial. Our October function will be a trip to the Popcorn and Pumpkin patch in Maxwell, NE. This is a load of fun for all. We hope to include spouses and children too!!! Be looking for trips to Benkelman, Movie Night in Wauneta and a Christmas Shopping run to Kearney. We would love to team up with another region for an event. Does anyone have an idea?

Cyndi Bahler
bahler@chase3000.com



Convention Chairman

Fall convention is being held in Benkelman Nebraska October 17 & 18th. It's not too late to register. Just give me a call or send an email up until Wednesday, October 15th. If you need a room reservation please call Nickole Sis at 1-308-423-5262. For those of you that don't know where this is just picture the very southwest corner of Nebraska and that's where it is. As you know they have a great group of members there and have graciously agreed to help with this convention. They are providing our lunch for us and I'm really looking forward to the weekend. I hope you can come and share in our 'Harvest Time' convention.

Terri Sherman
terrisherman@alltel.net



GAVEL EDITOR

Ladies,
This issue is being prepared differently for those of you receiving it via email; hopefully it will be more user friendly. If you are getting it 'snail mail' or off the website it should look pretty much the same. I am always striving to make this as easy to receive as possible, but please don't hesitate to let me know if you are having any problems or have any suggestions. This is your newsletter and I will do my best to produce a quality product. I am looking forward to fall convention and spending time with friends, see you all in a couple of weeks.

Angela Moody
angela-moody@cox.net



GREETINGS: NEBRASKA Women of Today:

Here is another trivia question for the Nebraska members: FIRST: CONGRATS to Terri Sherman for "almost" getting the correct answer to last month's trivia question: There have been eleven NE WT serve at the national level: although Terri missed one (Debi Baker)-she gets extra points for remembering that Terry Pronko served national while a Nebraska member, as well as Pennsylvania. FYI: The NE members serving on national included: Angela Moody, Deb VanMetre, Debi Baker, Ginny Theisfeld, Jan Maaske, Kelle Hunt-Anderson, Kelley Rosburg, Kim Troudt, Maxine Turner, Terri Sherman & Terry Pronko.

NOW... Fall is here already, which means September and Women of Today Week celebrations! This month's trivia question is: When is Women of Today Week, and in what year was it established? (HINT: it was adopted at a Year-End meeting, which means June, but what year? Also adopted at that convention was a uniform WT Year: May-April; July 1 as Founder's Day & our USWT Creed!) Be sure to e-mail your answer to me at: thomp034@umn.edu. REMEMBER: you will receive a special little gift from me for the correct answer, and have your name put in a year-end drawing for a very special "historical" gift!! HAPPY WOMEN OF TODAY WEEK!!

Michele Thompson
US WT Chairman of the Board
thomp034@umn.edu

**WELCOME HIWAY 40
WOMEN OF TODAY
OUR NEWEST EXTENSION!**

Chapter chatter/Friendship Corner

Heartland

We celebrated Women of Today Week with a full week of activities, ending with the Charter Banquet for the Nebraska City Women of Today! Welcome to all of the great new members in NC! We helped at the Papillion Manor with their annual "County Fair." Then participated in the craft fair at the AppleJack Festival in Nebraska City. We had 3 members attend the National Mid-Year Meeting in Illinois and they came back energized! We will be going to the Pumpkin Patch this month for a family activity, before heading west to Benkelman for Fall Convention where we look forward to seeing everyone.

Sonya Hurkman

Lincoln

Hello everyone from Lincoln! First of all the Lincoln chapter would like to welcome the new chapters! It is so exciting to have two new groups. We hope to see you at fall convention in Benkleman, where I am sure we are going to have a great time. Lincoln has been very busy with a huge garage sale to benefit Cedars, a local organization that benefits the youth of our community; a jammed packed Women of Today Week, highlighted by a lampshade hat contest; ongoing donations to the Lincoln Literacy Council; and a plethora of plans for

the upcoming months including, a Hair-Cut-A-Thon to benefit Aide for Foster Children, a spectacular Buckets of Sunshine Project, and a spook-tacular benefit for the children of the City Mission on Halloween. Best wishes for a happy beginning of the holiday season!

Wauenta

Hwy 40 Women of Today has been extended and is already holding events. We would like to welcome two new members, Heather Erhart and Melinda Critchfield. We are holding our Annual Shop Wauenta Day on October 11. It looks like it will be the biggest ever. Women of Today Week was a week's worth of activities and fun!
Sunni Nordhausen

Nebraska City

The Nebraska City Women of Today have held two business meetings and a charter/installation banquet since chartering on August 19th. We had a proclamation signed for Women of Today Week and had an activity planned for each day during Women of Today Week. Plans are in the making for a fundraiser selling candles.
Joyce Harpster

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities.

Both children and adults need to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe

Motorists The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group

Treats To ensure a safe trick-or-treat outing, parents are urged to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

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