

Burnsville Women of Today
burnsvillewomentoday.com
burnsvillewt@mnwt.org

CHAPTER CHATTER

December 2025



Dear BWT Friends,

I hope this holiday season brings you much joy and laughter as you celebrate with family and friends. And best wishes for happiness to continue into the new year.

December is traditionally a month of giving. There are volunteer opportunities at BWT for us to give this month by donating treats to our first responders, helping wrap gifts for the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon holiday party and helping memory care residents play Bingo. Doing these with your fellow chapter members would be fun and rewarding.

There are some other special events happening this month, also, like the Bachman's tour and lunch. Or you might want to try your hand at stone art or participate in the Make and Take with Mrs. Claus before our chapter meeting. And don't forget the Holiday Party, where you can catch up with old friends and new. Enjoy the festivities and the fun. I am looking forward to doing just that and I hope that you will join me at one or more of these holiday events.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pat Larson
Burnsville Women of Today Co-President



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Chapter Meeting
December 15, 2025, 6:30pm

**Lutheran Church of the
Ascension, 1801 Cliff Rd.
Burnsville, MN 55337**

Read the newsletter for all the details!

12/1	Food Prep & Bag Assembly Work
12/3	Bachman's Tour/Lunch
12/7	Treats for First Responders
12/8	BWT Board Meeting
12/9	Stone Art Project Night
12/10 or 11	BTYR Gift Wrapping
12/15	Mrs. Claus Make & Take Activity
12/15	BWT Chapter Meeting
12/16	Trinity Care Center Bingo
12/18	Holiday Party
12/27	Women's Wellness Walk

WEDGEWORD

Fit the words into the grid reading across and down. Each word is used once.



ETEN
GLENS
MESS

NAMES
OVAL
OVATE

TAME
TONG
TOTEM



HAPPY BWT MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY!



Brenda T—7 yrs
Dorene P—7 yrs
Haylee C—6 yrs
Mona H—6 yrs

Answers to last month's LETTER TILES

Using these letter tiles, create ten 5-letter words. Can you create more?

T H A N K S G I V I N G

AGING	SAINT
GAINS	SHANK
GANGS	STAIN
GIANT	STANK
GNATS	STING
HANGS	STINK
HINTS	TANKS
KNITS	THANK
KINGS	THING
NINTH	VISTA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Dorene P—12/11
Haylee C—12/23
Alexis C—12/24



Chapter Chatter, 2025-2026 LPM Dorene Perkins Monn

The deadline for newsletter submissions is the Thursday following each month's chapter meeting. All members are eligible to submit text and/or photos for inclusion. If you have a late-in-the-month story to be included in the next issue, please reach out to me by the deadline, so a space can be saved for it. Thank you for continuing to make this a valuable resource for our members.



Snaps for our Sisters



Carla - Thanks for organizing the book swap. It is nice to be able to get some free reading materials. - Kim T

Kerry - Thanks for stepping in to host Game Night. - Kim T

Alexis C - Congratulations on your engagement and baby news! So very happy for you. - Mary

Julie, Tammy, and Maria - Thinking of you during this difficult time. - Mary

Arlene, Kathy, and Tevyan - Thanks for being my Boo Bash Unicorn Crew. You guys are awesome! - Mary

Deb O - Great job on the website. You're the best! - Mary

Cheryl - So glad you are OK after your encounter with the deer. - Mary

Carla - Thank you for taking all the leftover books to the library and all the paper bags to be donated. - Mary

Kerry - Thanks for coordinating the monthly meal packs at the church. And, thanks to the members who have been a part of the work force. - Dorene

Deb - Great job on the Armful of Love gift cards! I'm sure they're very much appreciated by the recipients. - Dorene

Pat - Nice work as Tri 2 President. The work you do for the chapter is much appreciated, thank you! - Dorene

Carla - Thanks for continuing to host the book club. So glad you set up the book exchange last month. I picked up some fun new reads! - Dorene

Arlene, Cassie, Cheryl, Kathy, Kim T, Marilyn, Mary Jo, Sheila, and Susan - Thanks for coming to Game Night at my home. It was so much fun! And, a huge thank you to Pat for organizing it, bringing the snacks, prizes, and games. - Kerry

Arlene, Christine, and Pat - Thanks for helping at the November Community Meal at Lutheran Church of the Ascension! Can you believe that we helped prepare 282 meals? That's amazing! - Kerry

Sue - Thank you for taking notes at our chapter meeting. It was great to see you awarded the November Member of the Month in recognition of your efforts! - Kerry

Sheila - Congratulations on your Member of the Month recognition for hosting the bocce ball tournament and all the efforts you put into Women's Wellness and other events throughout the year! - Kerry

Dorene - You continue to do a fantastic job with the Chapter Chatter. Thank you so much! - Kerry

Deb O - Great job with the new BWT website! Thank you for all your efforts in getting it up and running. - Pat

Susan, Nancy, Lisa, and Sheila - Thank you for bringing the healthy treats to the November Chapter Meeting. They were delicious! - Pat

Dorene - You are doing an awesome job with the Chapter Chatter! I look forward to reading it and having all the details for the upcoming month in one place - Pat

Kerry - Thank you so much for co-hosting Game Night with me and holding it at your beautiful new home. I appreciate your generosity and hospitality. - Pat

Susan - Thank you for helping me at Game Night. I couldn't have done it without you! - Pat

Kerry - Congratulations on the belated honor of receiving a medallion for your work as Treasurer and Chapter Chatter Editor. You did a fabulous job! - Pat

Membership

2025-2026 Membership VPs Kathy Lowry and Dolly Kinney

Membership Renewals

Members up for renewal during Tri 2 are: Alexis B, Allison J, Brenda T, Deb O, Dolly K, Dorene P, Grace H, Haylee C, Laura B, Mona H, Sara C, Sue K, and Tammy B. **All Tri 2 memberships are due by December 10th.**

Here's what you need to know about paying your dues:

- If you are paying by cash or check, annual dues are \$60. Please make checks payable to Burnsville Women of Today. You can postal mail them to:
Burnsville Women of Today
Attn: Membership VP
P.O. Box 3115
Burnsville, MN 55337
- If you would like the convenience of paying by Venmo, dues are \$61.25 (\$60 dues + \$1.25 convenience fee). Our Venmo account is @BurnsvilleWT.
- You can also bring a check or cash to a chapter meeting and give it to the Membership VPs or Treasurer.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Kathy or Dolly.



Celebrating Membership Week—Nine BWT members enjoyed food and friendship at Ansari's Mediterranean Grill the evening of November 6 for Dinner of the Tri, a great way to connect!

Upcoming Events:

- **Bachman's Holiday House and Lunch**—December 3. Deb O. will be hosting. An Evite has been sent.
- **December Holiday Party**—December 18. Join us for a festive evening of food, friendship, and fun at the Jingle and Mingle Holiday Party! It's at Dolly's house beginning at 5:30pm. Please bring an appetizer or dessert. If you care to participate in the gift exchange, bring three identical \$5 gifts. You will draw three names to give your gifts to and in return, you will receive three gifts. Hosted by Dolly and Pat. An Evite will be sent.

Upcoming Events:

Treasurer's Report

2025-2026 Treasurer Jennifer Garza

BWT Treasurer's Report Month Ending					11/14/2025
Starting Balance as of October 16, 2025					5,441.70
Deposits	10/23/2025	Deposit	MNWT - 1st Tri NMA	15.00	
	10/23/2025	Deposit	Mobile deposit for dues (SK, DPM)	120.00	
	10/27/2025	Deposit	Deposit for dues (AB)	60.00	
	10/27/2025	Deposit	MNWT MVP	10.00	
	10/27/2025	Deposit	Silent Auction - Programming	20.00	
	11/10/2025	Deposit	Burnsville Fire Muster	300.00	
	11/10/2025	Deposit	Gertens fall fundraiser	358.28	
	11/12/2025	Deposit	Venmo transfer for dues (GH)	59.99	
		Total Deposits			943.27
Expenses	10/18/2025	Withdrawal	Meetup Subscription : 6 months	(99.99)	
	11/14/25	Check# 3736	MWT Trimester 2 Dues - Early Bird	(355.00)	
	11/14/25	Check# 3737	MWT Trimester 2 State Ways & Means donation	(35.00)	
	11/14/25	Check# 3738	MWT Foundation Annual donation	(50.00)	
	11/14/25	Check# 3739	M. Sobczak : Fall State Convention - President registration	(135.00)	
	11/14/25	Withdrawal	USPS : Stamps	(15.60)	
		Total Expenses			(690.59)
Checkbook balance					5,694.38
					Balance
Reserves		Fundraising Event Room Deposit	200.00		
		Cindy Sobczak Memorial Scholarship	1,750.00		
Total Reserves				1,950.00	(1,950.00)
Payables Due					
Receivables Due				0.00	0.00
Available Funds					3,744.38

Ways & Means

2025-2026 Director Cheryl Watson



Thank you to those who have participated in our fundraising efforts this year. Monies raised in support of our chapter will be applied toward future projects and activities. The most recent receipts:

- \$300 from Burnsville Festival & Fire Muster for our volunteer work during the city event in September,
- \$358 from Gerten's Fall plant sale fundraiser,
- \$50 from Cornerstone Craft Sale.

Programming

2025-2026 Programming VP Cheryl Watson

2025-2026 PROGRAM AREAS:

Youth of Today (Carla Student):

Promotes ideas and activities that allow youth to discover and experience the importance of volunteering.

Women's Wellness (Lisa Schwensen & Sheila McCabe):

Focuses on providing and supporting women's health education. The major event of the year is participating in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies.

Priority Project (Kathy Lowry):

This area changes every three years. Encourages members to educate themselves and participate in activities centered around the current project.

PR & Social Media (Deb Oldenburg & Alexis Cull):

Promotes BWT as an organization in the public eye including through social media; helps build positive relationships with other organizations, community members and media.

Living and Learning (Kim Tyson):

Promotes participation and provides information and project ideas in the areas of personal growth of members.

Community Connections (Kerry Frank):

Coordinates and encourages members to participate in local community service projects.

Chapter Chatter (Dorene Perkins Monn):

Responsible for gathering the information for the monthly newsletter and distributing it to members.

Youth of Today, 2025-2026 LPM Carla Student

You'll find multiple areas in the newsletter reporting details on how our chapter works to support youth in our community. Youth of Today will often team up with other programming areas to bring forward opportunities for participation. Watch for details on upcoming events.

Women's Wellness, 2025-2026 LPMs Sheila McCabe and Lisa Schwensen

Joy in Your Wellness Journey



Tuesday Night Pickleball - This weekly outdoor activity has ended for the season. Thanks to those who participated through play or promotion of this fun sport.



Monthly Wellness Walk - Held the last Saturday of each month—beginning at 8:30am. Locations to be determined.

Please reach out to Lisa or Sheila if you have any questions or suggestions.

Priority Project - REACH, 2025-2026 LPM Kathy Lowry

REACH was chosen as the three-year priority project at the MNWT State Convention in May 2024. It is a secondary school program started in Hutchinson and is now in over 42 schools across Minnesota and North Dakota.

REACH stands for Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character, and Hard Work. The program is open to any student of the participating school who would benefit from emotional, social, and academic support.

Burnsville Women of Today Chapter has chosen Jordan as the nearest REACH school program. We continue to support the teachers and counselors by providing student activity projects, incentive rewards, etc. for the program.



Programming (cont.)

PR & Social Media, 2025-2026 LPMs Deb Oldenburg and Alexis Cull

Event Posts and Photos (Facebook/Instagram) - Please continue to capture photos at events or assign someone to do so. We need all members' assistance in making sure events are covered and posted in a timely manner. Photos and event details can be forwarded to the BWT Social Media/PR email address bwtsocialmediapr@gmail.com.

If you have ideas or concerns about any of our social media, please don't hesitate to reach out to the social media team.

New BWT Website is Live

The new Burnsville Women of Today website is now live! You can check it out at: burnsvillewomenoftoday.com.

This is the first round to get things up and running. We've kept it simple to start with About, Membership, and Contact pages. The board will continue to discuss a couple of other options for future additions that would include a chapter events listing and/or calendar.

Work will continue on the backend of the website which allows search engines to find it more easily. Please take a look and do not hesitate to contact Deb O. if you see any errors or have any suggestions.



Living & Learning, 2025-2026 LPM Kim Tyson

Inspiration: Random Acts of Kindness – "There are two ways of spreading light: To be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." Edith Wharton.

Upcoming Events:

Pebble Art Crafting on Tuesday, December 9 at Kim's house at 6:30pm. Email has been sent.

Make and Take Craft with Cheryl - Monday, December 15 at 6:00pm before the chapter meeting.

Vision Boarding with Arlene - January date, time, and location TBD. More information to come.

Make and Take Yarn Craft with Michelle - Monday, January 19 at 6:00pm before the chapter meeting.



Game Night—November 19. Eleven members gathered for a fun evening. We enjoyed playing a variety of games, eating delicious treats, and most importantly, enjoying one another's company. We are looking forward to doing this again!



Programming (cont.)



Book Club, 2025-2026 Facilitator Carla Student

The next meeting of the book club is set for Tuesday, January 27, beginning at 6:00pm. We will be discussing ***Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear*** by Elizabeth Gilbert. Meeting location is Davanni's at the corner of County Roads 42 & 11 in Burnsville.

NOTE: The restaurant policy requires a minimum purchase of \$7 per person for use of their meeting room. Bi-Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday. Reading selections for the upcoming months are:

- March 24 - ***The Love Haters*** by Katherine Center
- May 26 - ***The House in the Cerulean Sea*** by T.J. Klune

Other Suggestions -

- ***An Immense World*** by Ed Yong
- ***Studies at the School by the Sea*** by Jenny Colgan



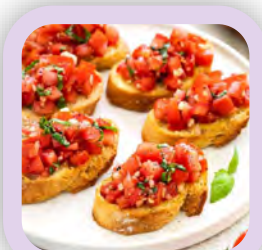
Holiday Gift Make & Take—December 15. Join Mrs. Claus (AKA Cheryl) at 6:00pm before the December Chapter Meeting to make a snowman ornament, beaded bracelet, pen and post it set, and a holiday bookmark. Give your creations to friends and family or donate them to the Trinity Holiday Bingo cart. Hope to see you there!



Recipe of the Month

Provided by Susan Sandoval

Healthy Bruschetta Sauce



- 5 Roma tomatoes (remove peel and dice)
- 3/4 cup fresh basil, chopped finely
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil (regular or lite)
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

In medium bowl, mix all ingredients together until well combined. If too chunky for you, pulse in food processor for a few seconds. Sauce can be served as an appetizer on toast slices, with chips or on pasta. Delicious with eggs! Optional: Add crumbled Feta to taste. Keeps about three days in the refrigerator.

Programming (cont.)

Community Connections, 2025-2026 LPM Kerry Frank



Free Community Meal

Ascension Lutheran Church Food Prep and Bag Assembly

The Burnsville Women of Today feel it is important to show our gratitude to the congregation at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension for allowing us to use their facilities for our monthly chapter meetings. We partner with their volunteers to prepare and serve food at their community meal the first Monday of each month. On November 3, four members volunteered their time for a total of eight service hours. The team prepared two hundred and eighty-two meals to distribute to anyone in need. Great job!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for future sessions. We have filled the schedule for December, but still have openings for the months that follow. Watch for the sign-ups at our chapter meetings. Shifts are from 2:30-4:30pm or 4:30-6:15pm. Please reach out to Kerry if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.



Treats for first responders will be collected on Sunday, December 7 from 4:00-7:00pm at Pat's house. Sorting and delivery will take place on Monday by Christine, Kerry, Pat, and Deb O. We plan to deliver to the two Burnsville fire stations and the police station. If we really get a lot of donations, we may branch out to the surrounding suburbs. If you don't feel like baking, any snack items would be appreciated.



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will be needing volunteers to wrap presents for a holiday party sometime the second week in December. Coming soon, an e-mail with details as soon as we get them.

Trinity Care Center Bingo, Cocoa, and Cookies—Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00pm. Come spread holiday cheer in the memory care facility of Trinity Care Center in Farmington. Enjoy cocoa and cookies as we play bingo with the nine seniors living there. Watch for an Evite to sign up.

BINGO

14	24	44	53	68
7	28	31	54	73
2	26	★	51	67
13	39	57	76	



State Delegate

2025-2026 State Delegate Mary Sobczak and Pat Larson



MNWT Tri 2 Statewide Committee Meetings—November 15

The November Committee Meetings were held at the Chamber of Commerce offices in Brainerd. Along with other chapter members from across the state, three BWT members attended.

Committee meetings are held once per trimester at varying locations. They provide valuable information on the operations of our chapters, include taskforces and subcommittees to create strategic plans of action, and look to the status, future, and needs included in the long-term planning of the State organization. Discussions cover the areas of Marketing, Membership, and Future Directions.

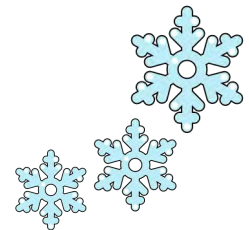
Any member is invited and welcome to attend. Details can be found on the mnwt.org website.



2026 MNWT Winter State Convention—January 23-24, 2026

Theme: *Snowflakes & Sprinkles*

Where: Wyndham Minneapolis South
Burnsville, MN 55337



Registration information available online at mnwt.org. A copy of the registration flyer is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Reminder: First-time chapter attendees have a chance to get a portion of your registration reimbursed. For details, see a BWT board member.

MNWT Day at the Rink—January 25, 2026

Join State President Shirley as the Frost, Minnesota's champion professional women's hockey league team, battles the New York Sirens. Puck drop will be 2:00pm at Grand Casino Arena in St. Paul. Place orders by Dec 21. Ticket price is \$40 and payment due into the Chapter Service Center by Jan 1. Tickets will be transferred electronically prior to the game. Visit mnwt.org for more information, or if you are reading this in digital format, click [Tickets Link](#) to place your order.



District 8 Tri 3 Meeting—March 14, 2026

BWT will be hosting District Director Brandy and other chapter representatives at a location TBD. Additional information as it becomes available will be provided at future chapter meetings, online at mnwt.org, and in the newsletter. If you are interested in coordinating or assisting with our chapter's involvement please talk with BWT Presidents Pat and Mary.



MNWT WINTER STATE CONVENTION

JANUARY 23 – 24 2026

Wyndham Minneapolis South, Burnsville, MN



Friday Night Party

Join us for winter fun

Crafts and games

Dress in your sparkly best

Prize for "Sparkliest" outfit

Saturday luncheon

Italian buffet- Bread sticks, Salad

Choice of pasta, sauce, and Meat -

Lasagna, Chicken Parm /or/ Chicken Marsala

Dessert, Choice of Iced Tea or Lemonade

Saturday Banquet

Choice of Roasted Pork Loin /or/

Chardonnay Chicken, includes

Garden Salad, Baby Red potatoes,
and fresh Vegetable blend



Let's Celebrate our Success with Snowflakes & Sparkles



Hotel Reservations need to be made by January 1, 2026 Call (952) 435-2100 for reservations – mention MNWT for group rate. All rooms are spacious and include mini fridge/microwave. For more details visit wyndhamhotels.com

Rates: King or Double Queen - \$95 + tax/night ; Suites - \$109+ tax/night

REGISTRATION FOR MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY WINTER STATE CONVENTION 2026

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____

Chapter _____ District _____

Email Address _____

ADVANCED REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 5 Refund request must be made by January 16, 2026. A \$5 cancellation fee will apply. Registration received at Winter State 2026 are NOT guaranteed meals.

Advanced Registration (By Jan. 5th):

____ Full Registration \$111.00

____ Friday Night Party \$ 20.00

____ Business Meeting \$ 7.00

____ Saturday Lunch \$ 50.00

____ Saturday Banquet \$ 60.00

Late Registration (after Jan. 5th):

____ Full Registration \$130.00

____ Friday Night Party \$ 25.00

____ Business Meeting \$ 7.00

____ Saturday Luncheon \$ 55.00

____ Saturday Banquet \$ 65.00

Make Checks Payable to MNWT

and mail to: Women Today c/o

Kathleen Watson

2395 Elm Drive

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

For General Information contact:

Tanya Rothstein

@ csc@mnwt.org

Women of Today Information (please check one)

____ Member ____ First Timer ____ Guest ____ MNWT Past President ____ Exec Council/Staff

Specify dietary needs (i.e. gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) _____

Dinner Choice ____ Pork Loin / or / ____ Chardonnay Chicken

