

Burnsville Women of Today

burnsvillewomentoday.com

burnsvillewt@mnwt.org

CHAPTER CHATTER

May 2026

Dear BWT Members,

Welcome to the first trimester of the 2026-2027 chapter year! I am very much looking forward to all of the events and activities ahead.

Last year Mary and Pat demonstrated how tag-teaming the president's role can work successfully. They led with the theme of "Together, Making a Difference", and boy did we. See page 10 of this newsletter for the impressive list of activities and projects hosted by our members.

We'll have a similar cooperative leadership arrangement this year; wherein, I'll work as chapter president in Tri 1 and Cheryl Watson will be taking over the role in Tri 2.

The trimester 3 president's position remains open at this time. I encourage anyone who has considered stepping into the leadership role to take this occasion to explore and experience personal growth with a safety net. It's a short-term commitment, you'll have the full assistance of an established board, and Mary and Pat have offered to provide individual guidance. It's a win win. Let me know if you're interested in this excellent opportunity.

Valuable additions to our chapter meetings last year were the member-led enrichments. If you have a craft, skill, or educational program you'd be willing to share with the members, please contact Programming Vice-President Pat to get on the planning calendar. Let's continue this well-received activity.

In the meantime, to get us started on this year, the 2026-2027 theme is "From the Heart" and the logo is pictured above. (Thanks Deb for taking a concept and making it real.) Check out the newsletter articles for upcoming events and activities. Let's make it another great year!

In Friendship,

Dorene Perkins Monn
2026-2027 Tri 1 President
Burnsville Women of Today



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Chapter Meeting
May 18, 2026, 6:30pm

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

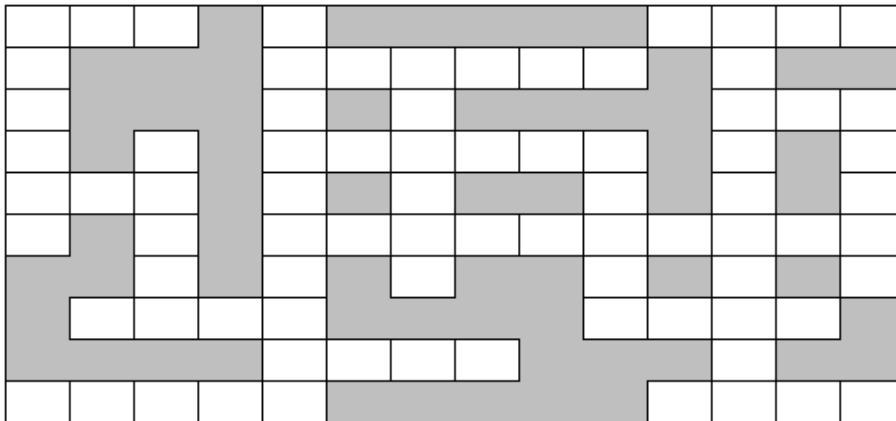
Read the newsletter for all the details!

5/4	Ascension Food Prep
5/5	Gerten's Plant Sale Pick-Up
5/5	Cinco de Mayo Mexican Market
5/7	BWT Year-End Banquet
5/11	BWT Board Meeting
5/15-17	MNWT Annual Convention
5/18	BWT Chapter Meeting
5/26	Book Club

Planning ahead

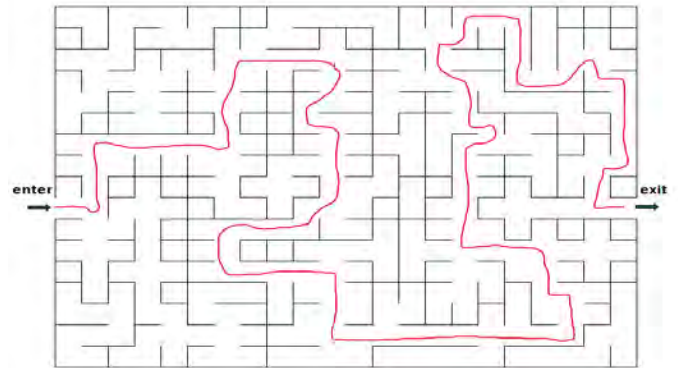
6/8	BWT Board Meeting
6/11-13	USWT Annual Convention
6/15	BWT Chapter Meeting
6/27	District 8 Tri 1 Meeting

Fit all of the listed words into the grid, crossword style.



- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>3-letters</u> | <u>5-letters</u> | <u>10-letters</u> |
| red | diner | continuous |
| rem | dress | horizontal |
| set | poppy | vertical |
| | smile | |
| <u>4-letters</u> | <u>6-letters</u> | |
| loop | essays | |
| plus | sewing | |
| rate | square | |
| real | toward | |
| that | | |

Answer to last month's MAZE puzzle



HAPPY WT MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY!

Nancy G—1 yr
Teresa J—1 yr
Mary S—14 yrs

Terry D—40 yrs
Valerie G—3 yrs

Chapter Chatter, 2025-2026 LPM Dorene Perkins Monn

The deadline for newsletter submissions is the Thursday following each month's chapter meeting. This month's deadline will be May 21. **The chapter is currently seeking a newsletter editor for next year.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Dorene. Thank you for continuing to make this a valuable resource for our members.



To family and friends celebrating birthdays this month. There are no chapter member birthdays in May.



Snaps for our Sisters

Thanks for those who went on the Hindu Temple Tour. A special shout out to Mary and Cassie for getting us there and back safely. – Kim

Congratulation to Jennifer for being the lucky winner of the Living and Learning Certification event. Also, thanks to Mary and Christine for helping with this event. – Kim

Special thanks to our Banquet Committee-Cheryl, Cassie, Teresa, Kathy, Susan, Dorene and Maureen. Everyone has jumped in to help. The group has been working hard. It will be a great event. Go Tropical! – Kim

Dorene – Congratulations on your Presidential Pin! Thank you for all your hard work with Chapter Chatter. – Cheryl

Jennifer – So sorry for the loss of your dad. Thinking of you. – Cheryl

Maureen – So excited for your granddaughter graduating from the U of M. – Cheryl

Thank you to everyone who came to Bundles of Love to crochet baby blankets in memory of my mom. – Cheryl

Pat and Mary – Great year being co-presidents, state delegates and secretary at board meetings. You both did a wonderful job! Thank you for all your hard work. – Cheryl

Carla – Great job with the pet toy service project. – Cheryl

Kim – Congratulations on member-of-the-month. You've done a great job with L & L this year. – Cheryl

Kerry – Thank you for setting up the meal prep all year at the church. You did a great job with CC this year. – Cheryl

Alexis – So excited for you to have your baby, can't wait to meet him. – Cheryl

Christine – Thank you for helping me with Evites this month. They looked awesome. – Cheryl

Dorene – Congratulations on your Presidential Pin for the awesome job you do with the Chapter Chatter! - Pat

Mary and Kim T – The tropical treats you brought to the April Chapter Meeting were delicious! Thank you! – Pat

Cheryl – Thank you for the bookmarks you made for us all. Very cute! – Pat

Dorene – Thank you for handling the scholarship project. You did a great job. – Pat

Thank you to Christine for again leading our efforts for the road cleanup this spring, and thanks to Cassie, Julie, Kim T, Mary, Teresa K for your efforts! – Kerry

Dorene – Congratulations on your MNWT Presidential Pin. You consistently produce an outstanding newsletter which is a great tool for our members. It also represents our organization in such a positive light. – Kerry

Kim T – Congratulations on your member-of-the-month recognition. The Hindu Temple visit was very interesting, and it was fun to follow-up with lunch at an Indian restaurant. Thank you for all of the time and effort you put into the planning of it. – Kerry

Cheryl – Thank you for your gifts to everyone in honor of Volunteer Week! You are always so generous and kind. – Kerry

Pat and Mary – Thank you for your leadership this past year. We accomplished so much and had a good time doing it! – Kerry

Thank you Mary and Pat for a wonderful year under your leadership! – Dorene

Kim T – The Hindu Temple tour was very educational. It's something I wouldn't have done on my own and I am very happy you coordinated the day. Thank you! – Dorene

Cheryl – Thanks for setting up the Bundles of Love crochet and card activities. I learned a new skill and the pineapple cake was delicious! – Dorene

Dorene – Congratulations on your Presidential Pin! Very well deserved. – Mary

Kim – Awesome job organizing the Hindu Temple Tour. It was very informative and interesting. – Mary

Pat, Cheryl, Dorene, Kathy, Dolly and Jennifer – Thank you for serving on the Board this past year. You all did such a great job. – Mary

Sue – Thanks again for taking the meeting minutes. Much appreciated. – Mary

To Mary and Pat on a fabulous year as Co-Presidents! You've done a fabulous job of having BWT make a difference together. – Deb O

To all the 2025-2026 Board Members and LPMS, congratulations on a job well done this year! A very well-rounded year with great social, service and learning opportunities. – Deb O



Parliamentarian

2026-2027 Mary Sobczak

2026-2027 Burnsville Women of Today Chapter Board and Local Programming Managers (LPMs)

The chapter year runs May 1 through April 30. Elections were held at the March Chapter Meeting and officers will be sworn in at the year-end banquet. Please welcome them to their positions and thank them for taking on these leadership roles. Candidates are still being accepted for the open positions.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Tri 1 Dorene Perkins Monn / Tri 2 Cheryl Watson /
Tri 3 OPEN

PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Larson

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Kerry Frank

SECRETARY: Kim Tyson

TREASURER: Jennifer Garza

STATE DELEGATE: Dorene Perkins Monn

WAYS AND MEANS: Cheryl Watson

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mary Sobczak

LPMs

YOUTH OF TODAY: Carla Student

PRIORITY PROJECT: Kathy Lowry

WOMEN'S WELLNESS: Maureen Edstrom & Nancy Gessner

LIVING AND LEARNING: Cassie Feldman

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Pat Larson

CHAPTER CHATTER EDITOR: OPEN

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Deb Oldenburg

Membership

2026-2027 Membership VP Kerry Frank



Burnsville Women of Today's Annual Banquet—May 7

Time: 5:45pm

Location: Andiamo Italian Ristorante, 1629 Lena Ct, Eagan

Theme: Tropical Luau. Tropical attire and colors are encouraged.



Membership Renewals

Members up for renewal during Tri 1 are: Alexis C, Carla S, Cassie F, Jennifer G, Julie S, Kathy L, Kim H, Mary S, Maureen E, Nancy G, Pat L, Rosemary M, Susan S, Teresa J, Terri D, Tevyan S, and Valerie G. If you haven't already, please submit your Tri 1 dues prior to July 10 to allow the chapter to meet the Early Bird submittal deadline.

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.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Kerry.

Programming

2026-2027 Programming VP Pat Larson

2026-2027 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 (Maureen Edstrom and Nancy Gessner):

Focuses on providing and supporting women's health education, in the areas of fitness, mental health and well-being.

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):

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 (Cassie Feldman):

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

Community Connections (Pat Larson):

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

Chapter Chatter (OPEN):

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



Youth of Today, 2026-2027 LPM Carla Student

Pet Toy Service Project—April 29

The Burnsville Women of Today hosted a Youth of Today Pet Toys service project Wednesday night. Ten members, three guests and four Girl Scouts attended. Member Carla did a great job teaching the group how to make the pet toys. The group volunteered 26 service hours to make 21 dog toys, 18 cat toys and 30 treat bags. They also donated seven bags of pet food, three pet blankets, four bags of kitty litter, and two boxes of pet treats. All the pet toys and supplies will be donated to Last Hope pet shelter. Thank you to the awesome job everyone did to help dogs and cats in need.



BWT \$500 Cindy Sobczak Memorial Service Scholarship

Lily Launsbach of Lakeville South High School was selected as the winner of our scholarship. She is an outstanding student with plans to become a powerful changemaker serving others in her community. This accomplished young woman is heading into her college career with a truly bright future.

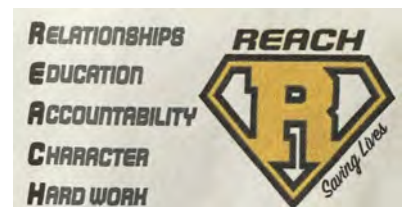


Women's Wellness, 2026-2027 LPMs Maureen Edstrom and Nancy Gessner

Are you ready for some new education about Women's Wellness? We intend to cover different topics on wellness and plan to include some planned activities. We hope you will join us. Watch for more information.

Priority Project - REACH, 2026-2027 LPM Kathy Lowry

Members at the April Chapter Meeting wrote inspirational notes encouraging REACH students to finish the year strong. A donation of \$75.00 was made to the program to support an end-of-the-year celebration of students achievements in meeting their goals.



Programming (cont.)

Community Connections, 2026-2027 LPM Pat Larson



Free Community Meal

Ascension Lutheran Church Food Prep and Bag Assembly

The next food prep and bag assembly session at the church will be Monday, May 4. This volunteer opportunity will be continuing into our next year. A new signup sheet was distributed at the last chapter meeting, but feel free to reach out to Kerry if you'd like to reserve a spot. Thanks to all who are helping this cause!



Adopt-A-Highway Street Clean-Up—April 18

In honor of Earth Day and National Volunteer Week, seven members cleaned up our adopted stretch of Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville. The tally was eleven hours of volunteer service. It was a little chilly and windy, but they enjoyed the treasure hunt...auto parts, toothbrush, liquor bottles, etc. They left the area in better shape and felt good about providing this service to our community.

When one member got huge burrs in her hair and on her clothing, while retrieving a bit of trash from under some shrubbery, other members jumped to the rescue. Members helping members! Thanks to all the street-cleaning volunteers; Cassie, Christine, Kim T, Mary, Julie, Kerry, and Teresa K.



Gift Basket Donations—at the April 20 Chapter Meeting

Two "Italian Dinner Extravaganza" baskets, valued at approximately \$100, were donated to Merrick, Inc. Merrick is a nonprofit organization that provides life enrichment and employment services for over 400 adults with disabilities. These baskets will be part of an upcoming fundraiser to support their mission.



360 Communities 40th Annual Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Luncheon—April 10

Five BWT members attended this event. It was held at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville. Members experienced the unveiling of 360 Communities' bold vision: a new Lewis House shelter and Survivor Support Center in Eagan. Thanks for attending such an important event ladies!

State Delegate

2026-2027 State Delegate Dorene Perkins Monn

District Meeting—June 27

The District 8 Tri 1 Meeting is scheduled to be held at Blooming Prairie City Hall. Watch for more information coming soon.

2026-2027 District 8 Board...

Treasurer Cindy Golbuff from Blooming Prairie, Chairman of the Board Brandy Mausbach from Blooming Prairie, District Director Theresa Carpenter from New Hope, and Secretary Jennifer Ann Grovdahl from Blooming Prairie!



2026-2027 District 8 Board

Certification Event—April 20 (prior to the chapter meeting)

Congratulations to those members completing their **MNWT Living & Learning** and **USWT Wellness & Personal Development** certifications. The Living & Learning Certification is a tool to encourage a member's personal growth in self-improvement, civic and spiritual growth, and through family and friend connections. The Wellness & Personal Development Certification is designed to assist individuals to be aware of their physical and mental well-being, along with personal growth, careers and citizenship. These forms may be completed once each year. Traditionally, Burnsville Chapter has hosted a springtime member event to complete these during an evening get-together.

Local Officers' Training Sessions (LOTS) —April 25

Six chapter members attended LOTS in Monticello. The morning session included chapter board position training which covered a review of the position responsibilities, how to start the year, and what to expect from our state counterparts.

The afternoon provided an inspirational message from State President Shirley and exercises on developing goals, building confident communication and member engagement.



Upcoming 2025-2026 Annual Year-End Conventions



Minnesota Women of Today Convention—May 15-17

Location: Jackpot Junction Casino in Morton, MN

US Women of Today Convention—June 11-13

Location: Wyndham MPLS South in Burnsville, MN



Membership Resources:

MNWT Webpage: <https://mnwt.org/> • Here you'll find a multitude of resources. This is a great website to learn about the operation of this state organization.

MNWT Training Resources Webpage: <https://mnwt.org/training/> • View past webinars and find information on activities or enrichments. You will be able to see what other chapters have done, how they did it and what resources each event required along with how successful it was for them, or what they could have changed to have better success!

United States Woman of Today Webpage: <https://uswomenoftoday.org/> • You will find a host of information, that looks a little different than the MN state resources as it serves our whole nation and sister states. This is a great website to learn about the level of this organization outside of Minnesota.

Together, Making a Difference

2025-2026 Co-Presidents Mary Sobczak and Pat Larson



THE YEAR IN REVIEW / PROJECTS LIST

Adopt-A-Highway – fall and spring roadside clean ups
Armful of Love gift card/cash donations
Ascension Church – helped prep meals 1 x a month
Bachman's Holiday Tour
Bocce Ball Potluck
Boo Bash Trunk or Treat - decorated car and handed out candy
Book Club – 6 x
Book Exchange
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon – Served lunch to veterans
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Christmas wrapping
Brunch of the Tri at Mason Jar
Bundles of Love – crocheted around blankets
Burnsville Fire Muster – greeted visitors/managed sensory area
Dinner of the Tri at Ansari's Mediterranean Grill
End of Year Banquet - May 2025
Enrichment – Holiday Make & Take
Enrichment – Healing Stones
Enrichment – Celebrating Yourself
Enrichment – Mini Yarn Hats
Enrichment – Gardening in a Small Space
Feed My Starving Children – packed meals
Food Drive – Prince of Peace Church/Mission Outpost
Founders Day Happy Hour at Porter Creek
Friendship Day Coffee at Constellation Coffee Shop
Game Night
Game Night Girls' Grand Prix II
Holiday Party
Hugs from Hunter – Ghouls Gathering for YT & REACH
Hugs from Hunter – prepped blankets for State Convention
Historic Owatonna Trip
Hindu Temple Tour
Stone Art Project
Luminary Bag Decorating for Relay for Life
Lunch of the Tri at Chart House
March of Dimes Walk - May 2025
Merrick, Inc. – gift basket fundraiser donations
MLK Birthday Bags
MLK Valentine Cocoa Cups for Jordan School - REACH
MLK Hygiene Bags for Burnsville High School
Nami Walk
Pet Toys – made with area youth
Assembled Halloween treats and prepped blankets for Jordan High School REACH
Backpack raffle – donated funds to Jordan High School REACH
Donated money/cards for end-of-year party/Jordan High School REACH
Relay for Life – bowling fundraiser
Relay for Life – helped at cancer survivors' tent
School Supply Drive
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build
Teddy Bear Picnic Donations to Lewis House
Treats for South Metro First Responders
Trinity Bingo – played Bingo with memory care residents
Veterans Thank You Cards
Vision Boards
YT – Re-wrote scholarship application and submitted to schools
Ways and Means Brats and Bingo
Ways and Mean Cornerstone Craft Sale
Ways and Means Fall and Spring Fundraisers
Ways and Means Spooktacular Silent Auction
Ways and Means Taco Bar and Mexican Market Fundraiser
What Girls Want – hygiene and beauty products to Burnsville HS
Women's Wellness Pickleball, Acqua Walking, Walking, Bowling



Minnesota Women of Today Annual Convention May 15 -17, 2026

Jackpot Junction Casino, 39375 County Rd 24, Morton MN 56270 Call to Reserve your Room

Today Group of Rooms Held till **April 30th, 2026**. Mention MNWT for group rate!

Phone: **1-800-946-2274** Room Rate is \$129.50 per Night (does not include taxes or fees)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Chapter: _____ District: _____ Email: _____

Registration Selection (by 4/27/26):

- Full Registration: \$113
- Friday Night Party: \$20
- Business Meeting: \$7
- Saturday Lunch: \$55
- Saturday Banquet: \$65

Late Registration(after 4/27/26):

- Full Registration \$128
- Friday Night Party \$22
- Business Meeting \$10
- Saturday Lunch \$60
- Saturday Banquet \$70

Type of Member:

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

Check Mailed to: PO Box 86, New Ulm, MN 56073 Made out to: New Ulm Women of Today
Advance Registration is due by April 27th, 2026 (postmarked)
 Refund requests must be made by May 6th, 2026. A \$5 cancelation fee will apply. **Registrations received after May 6th, 2026, are not guaranteed meals.**

Online Payment Option:

- Link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mnwt-annual-convention-2026>
- See the instructions on the MNWT website on how to purchase online

General Information Questions:

- Contact: Alexandra Staley & Laura Gaylord
- Email: newulmwt@mnwt.org

Lunch Choice:

- Turkey Sandwich
- Roast Beef Sandwich
- Ham Sandwich
- Veggie/GF Option

Dinner Choice

- Stuffed Chicken Breast with Potato and Green Veggies
- Veggie/Gluten Free Option



**US WOMEN OF TODAY ANNUAL CONVENTION
JUNE 11-13, 2026**

**WYNDHAM MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH BURNSVILLE
14201 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, BURNSVILLE MN**

UNITED STATES WOMEN OF TODAY YEAR END CONVENTION 2026

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____ State/Zip: _____

Chapter: _____ State: _____

Email Address: _____

We will make arrangements to pick members flying into MSP airport. Airline: _____ Flight # _____

ETA: _____ Will you need to be picked up: Y / N Sunday Departure Time: _____

Women of Today Information: | | Member | | First Timer | | Past President | | Guest

Check the box to Register	Advanced Registration	Late Registration
Full Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$130
Friday Night	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25
All Day Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$105
Saturday Mtgs/Forums	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20
Saturday Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40
Saturday Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 45

Room Reservation:
Wyndham MPLS South Burnsville
You are responsible for your own room reservations.
Reservations need to be made by May 31, 2026
Mention "USWT" to receive the rate.
Standard Room with 2 queens or 1 king: \$109
Suites with 2 queens or 1 king: \$119
Contact the Hotel at 952-435-2100

Advanced registration must be postmarked by May 11, 2026. Registrations received at the convention are not guaranteed meals. Refund requests made at least 30 days prior to convention will be made less a \$10 cancel fee.

Make checks payable to "Madelia Women of Today" and mail to Jane Hanson, 31078 790th Avenue, Madelia MN 56062. Pay by venmo: @jane-hanson-26 phone code 5699

For more info contact Jane Hanson at packerjane55@gmail.com or 507-317-0951

Registrations can be made on line with this link/qr code:
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/57888?checkInDate=06/12/2026&checkOutDate=06/14/2026&groupCode=061226USW>

Luncheon menu: Tator Tot Hotdish, Risotto, Salad, Vegetable.

Banquet Menu: Pasta bar including Chicken stuffed with Minnesota Wild Rice, Vegetable, Salad and cake for dessert.

Both have gluten free and vegetarian options.

Minnesota Nice

The behavior of people born and raised in Minnesota, to be courteous, reserved, and mild-mannered. The cultural characteristics of Minnesota nice include a polite friendliness, an aversion to confrontation, a tendency toward understatement, a disinclination to make a fuss or stand out, emotional restraint, and self-deprecation.