

Burnsville Women of Today

burnsvillewomenoftoday.com

burnsvillewt@mnnwt.org

CHAPTER CHATTER

September 2026



BWT Members,

Wow! Can you believe 1st trimester is already over! What a great summer of socials, activities and service projects.

Big thank you to Dorene for being the 1st tri chapter president. She did a wonderful job with all the board and chapter meetings, completing the plan of action, attending many chapter activities, organizing the BWT clothing orders, AND serving as the state delegate, AND editing the Chapter Chatter!



Now it's my turn to be the 2nd trimester chapter president. The board and program managers have a lot of fun things planned. I hope to see you all at one of the chapter activities this trimester. I look forward to "Service, Growth and Fellowship" with you.

In friendship,

Cheryl Watson
2026-2027 Tri 2 President
Burnsville Women of Today



WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Snaps	3
Membership.....	4
Treasurer	6
Programming.....	6
State Delegate	9

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Chapter Meeting
September 21, 2026, 6:30pm

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

Read the newsletter for all the details!

9/14.....	BWT Board Meeting
9/15.....	Gerten's Fundraiser Pick-up and Harvest Market
9/18-19.....	MNWT Fall Convention
9/20-26.....	Women of Today Week
9/21.....	BWT Chapter Meeting
9/22.....	Book Club

Planning ahead

10/2-3.....	USWT Mid-Year Convention
10/5.....	Ascension Food Prep
10/12.....	BWT Board Meeting
10/19.....	BWT Chapter Meeting

ADD-A-WORD

Add one word to each of the 3-word sets to create new words or phrases. For example: In a set including "bulb," "weight" and "sun," the added word would be "light" to create "lightbulb," "lightweight" and "sunlight."

1. Ball, Theme, National _____
2. Billiard, Pants, Square _____
3. Half, Shelf, Insurance _____
4. Bob, House, Wild _____
5. Driver, Shuttle, School _____
6. Loan, Made, Town _____
7. Chapter, Ends, Mark _____
8. Car, Cereal, Shoe _____

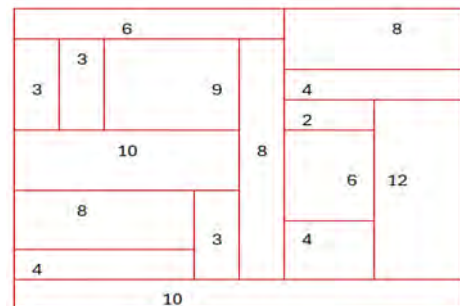
HAPPY WT MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY!

Alexis B—5 yrs
Dolly K—5 yrs

Chapter Chatter, LPM Dorene Perkins Monn

As most of you have already heard, next month's newsletter will look a little (or a lot) different. With Microsoft's discontinuation of Publisher we are transitioning to a new yet -to-be determined software program. The deadline for newsletter submissions remains the same—Thursday following each month's chapter meeting. This month's deadline will be September 24. Thank you for your continued support of this newsletter.

Answer to last month's RECTANGLES puzzle:



Mary S—9/8
Jennifer G—9/10
Kathy L—9/13

Tammy B—9/21
Arlene P—9/21
Lynn R—9/29



Snaps for our Sisters

Dorene - Thank you for your leadership as chapter president for Tri 1. You have done a wonderful job - Kathy

Anastasia and Julie Ann - Congratulations on a well-played Bocce Ball Tournament. - Kathy

Cheryl - Thank you for donating the gift basket for the gift card drawing at our annual picnic. - Kathy

Shout out and thanks to all the members who participated in our gift card collection for REACH. - Kathy

Kathy and Allison - Thank you for organizing the fun Bocce Ball Tournament! - Cheryl

Jennifer - Thanks for having the Google demonstration and for all you do as treasurer. - Cheryl

Mary and Deb - Congrats on member-of-the-month in July and August. - Cheryl

Dorene - Thanks for organizing the picnic at the Lakeville park. It was great. - Cheryl

Mary - Thank you for hosting the Friendship Day Coffee. I enjoyed coloring the bookmark, although I realize it paled in comparison to your beautiful work. You are talented! - Kerry

Allison and Kathy - Thank you for planning and hosting the Bocce Ball Tournament. It looks like it was a huge success! - Kerry

Jennifer - Thanks for reviewing Google Docs with the board. Very helpful information, and I appreciate you putting this together - Kerry

Dorene - Thanks for putting together the chapter's Plan of Action. It is impressive to see all of the things that we do!!! - Kerry

Michelle - I heard that you ROCKED as a presenter at the President and State Delegate Retreat. You go girl!!!! - Kerry

Kim T - Thanks for your great organizational skills in recording the board and chapter meetings. You help us keep track of everything going on, and I appreciate it! - Kerry

Shout out to Dorene for doing such an awesome job as president this last tri. You did a wonderful job. And, for taking the time to put together the opportunity for us to purchase chapter specific jackets and shirts. It will be cool to see everyone wearing the items. - Kim

Allison and Kathy - The bocce ball tournament was a resounding success. It was so fun! Thanks for taking this on. - Kim

Mary - Thank you for organizing the Friendship Day Coffee and for supplying treats and bookmarks to decorate. It was an enjoyable morning. - Pat

Kathy and Allison - Thank you for being in charge of the Bocce Ball Tournament. It was a lot of fun! - Pat

Dorene - You did an awesome job as president for the first trimester. Thank you! - Pat

Mary - Thanks for organizing the USWT Friendship Day Coffee, and thank you for providing us with a fun activity and super yummy snacks! - Cassie

Kathy and Allison - Congratulation on a very successful Bocce Ball Tournament! - Dorene

Mary - Thanks for coordinating the updates to our Bylaws and Policies. - Dorene

Pat - Your continued work for the chapter in the Programming area and as our in-house proofreader is very much appreciated. - Dorene

Mary - The Friendship Day Coffee get-together was so fun. The bookmark activity was an added bonus. Thank you! - Dorene

Dorene - Awesome job as Tri 1 president! - Mary

Allison and Kathy - Thank you for organizing the bocce ball event. It was a lot of fun! - Mary

Alexis B - Congratulations on starting medical school. - Mary

Membership Resources:

MNWT Webpage: 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: 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: 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.

Membership

2026-2027 Membership VP Kerry Frank

Membership Renewals

We currently have 47 members, with 11 up for renewal. Those whose membership expires during Tri 2 are Alexis B, Allison J, Brenda B, Deb O, Diana M, Dolly K, Dorene P, Grace H, Haylee C, Sue W and Tammy B.

If you are up for renewal this trimester, please remit prior to November 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.



Tri 1 Membership Raffle

At our September Chapter Meeting we will draw the winner of the Tri 1 Membership Raffle. Attendees at the Founder's Day Happy Hour, Friendship Day Coffee, Dinner of the Tri, and the BWT Annual Bocce Ball Tournament will all be entered to win. Come see who wins the 5-Piece Spa Gift Set!

Bocce Ball Tournament—8/17

The 20th annual Bocce Ball Tournament is in the books. Twenty BWT members participated in a fun evening. Congratulations to the 2026 Champions Anastasia and Julie Ann!



Interested in Hosting an Event?

Did you enjoy the membership social events last tri? Want to have input into the planning for Tri 2 by hosting a Dinner or Lunch of the Tri? It can be done by one person or a group of people, and those organizing it have input into the location and timing. If you are interested, please get in touch with Kerry.

Membership (cont.)



MNWT & USWT Friendship Day Coffee —8/2

Eight members and one guest celebrated Friendship Day on a coffee shop patio by enjoying the outdoors, coffee, coloring bookmarks and time with friends.



Parliamentarian

2026-2027 *Mary Sobczak*

Bylaws and Policies

The changes to the Bylaws and Policies were voted on at the August Chapter Meeting and an updated version has been sent to all members. Thank you all for your input.

Ways & Means

2026-2027 *Director Cheryl Watson*



Gerten's Fall Fundraiser Pick Up—9/15

Thanks to everyone who purchased items from the Gerten's Fall Fundraiser. Your order will be available on 9/15 for pick up at Cheryl's house from 4:00-7:00pm.



Harvest Market Craft & Bake Sale—9/15

Come and enjoy an apple brat as you shop craft and baked items on 9/15 from 4:00-7:00pm at Cheryl's house. All proceeds will go to the BWT general funds. Please contact Cheryl at 651-235-4389 if you would like to donate baked items or crafts.



Halloween Flapjack Fundraiser—October 31

Enjoy a pancake breakfast at Applebee's in Apple Valley from 8:00-10:00am. Tickets are \$10. There will also be a Spooktacular Silent Auction. All proceeds will benefit the new Lewis House in Eagan. Contact Cheryl at 651-235-4389 to purchase tickets, volunteer at the event, or donate to the silent auction.

Treasurer's Report

2026-2027 Treasurer Jennifer Garza

BWT Treasurer's Report Month Ending					8/14/2026
Starting Balance as of August 14, 2026					5,503.38
Deposits	7/24/2026	Deposit	Nametags	20.00	
		Total Deposits			20.00
Expenses	7/20/2026	Check# 3775	K Frank - nametags	(43.25)	
	7/21/2026	White Wolf	Online clothing store deposit	(150.00)	
	8/10/2026	Check# 3777	MWT - Tri 1 State Ways and Means donation	(35.00)	
		Total Expenses			(228.25)
Checkbook balance					5,295.13
					Balance
Reserves		Fundraising Event Room Deposit	200.00		
		Cindy Sobczak Memorial Scholarship	1,850.00		
Total Reserves			2,050.00		(2,050.00)
Payables Due			0.00		0.00
Receivables Due			0.00		0.00
Total Receivables Due			0.00		0.00
Available Funds					3,245.13

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):

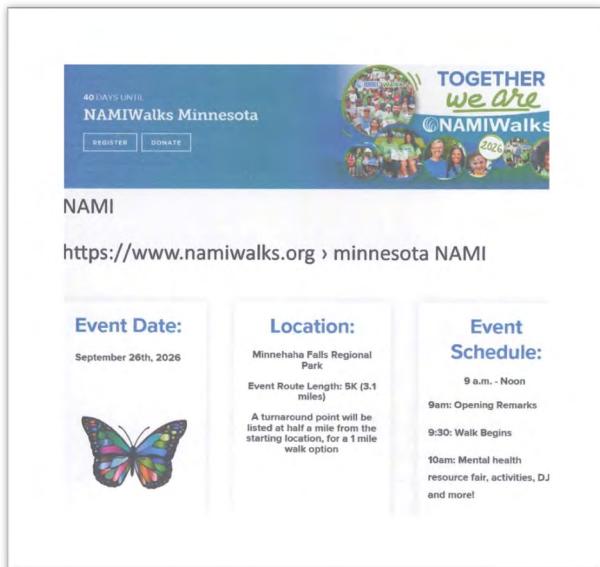
Coordinates and encourages members to participate in local community service projects.

Chapter Chatter (Dorene Perkins Monn):

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

Programming (cont.)

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



September Focus—Mental Health

We are focusing on mental health in September and will share information about staying mentally well.

An evite will be sent inviting members to join us for NAMIWalks Minnesota on September 26 at Minnehaha Falls Regional Park. Maureen will be registering for fundraising and if you would like to participate, instructions are available on the website.

Priority Project - REACH, 2026-2027 LPM Kathy Lowry

Gift Card Collection—8/17

Our chapter collected gift cards and cash for REACH at our August 17 meeting. What a generous contribution totaling \$ 200.00. We will be presenting Jordan with 40 gift cards to be used as student incentives. Congratulations to Mary for winning the gift basket drawing provided by our own Cheryl, the State Program Manager for REACH. Everyone who donated to the gift card collection will also have their name included in a drawing at the MNWT September State Convention. Good Luck!



Fall Treat Packs—9/21

We will be packing fall treat packs for REACH at 6:00pm before the September 21 Chapter Meeting. Come join us if you can.

PR & Social Media, 2026-2027 LPM Deb Oldenburg

Event Posts and Photos (Facebook/Instagram) - Send to bwtsocialmediapr@gmail.com

BWT Website - burnsvillewomenoftoday.com



Programming (cont.)



Living & Learning, 2026-2027 LPM Cassie Feldman

Austin SPAM Museum Tour—8/29

Cassie, Julie Ann, Kim T, Marilyn, Mary S and Teresa K met at the Byerly's in Burnsville, and carpooled to the SPAM Museum in Austin, Minnesota. There they learned that SPAM was invented in 1937, and quickly evolved from a depression era budget meat into a cultural icon. It's long shelf life, affordability, and portability made it a crucial wartime ration that sustained Allied troops in WWII.

After the museum tour they visited Sweet Reads Books and Candy store, then out to eat at Piggy Blue's Bar-B-Que. They completed the day at the Austin Artworks Festival where they listened to live music and viewed the beautiful works of art.

Book Club, 2026-2027 Facilitator Carla Student

The next meeting of the book club is set for **Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00pm**. We will be discussing the book **"When the Cranes Fly South"** by Lisa Ridzén. The meeting location is Davanni's (corner of County Roads 42 & 11). Note: The restaurant requires that each participant spends a minimum of \$7.00. Bi-Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday.



Reading selections for the upcoming months are:

Nov. 24 - **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi

Jan. 26 - **TBD**

Mar. 23 - **The Correspondent** by Virginia Evans

May 25 - **The Lion Women of Tehran** by Marjan Kamali

Other suggested reading:

Finding My Way: A Memoir By Malala Yousafzai

Atmosphere By Taylor Jenkins Reid

1776 By David McCullough

Community Connections, 2026-2027 LPM Pat Larson



Free Community Meal

Ascension Lutheran Church Food Prep and Bag Assembly—8/3

Four members helped prep food and assemble 279 bags for the Ascension Community Meal on August 3. Thank you to Kathy, Rosemary, Allison and Valerie for your volunteer service. The next meal that we will help prepare is on October 5.



Looking Ahead to Other Events in October



There will be the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon veterans' luncheon, our adopted highway clean-up, writing thank you notes to veterans, and Boo Bash. If you would like to help with any of these activities, contact Pat. There will also be sign-up sheets on the clipboard at the September chapter meeting.

35W Bridge Lighting—9/25

The I-35W St. Anthony Falls Bridge will be illuminated blue in honor of Women of Today Week. Lights will turn on 30 minutes before sunset and off 30 minutes after sunrise. More details on a photo opportunity will be coming from MNWT.

State Delegate

2026-2027 State Delegate Dorene Perkins Monn



State President Visit—8/17

Members welcomed State President Jeny Ohr to our August Chapter Meeting. The evening included a business meeting, potluck dinner and competitive bocce ball tournament.

District 8 Tri 1 Social—8/22



Burnsville member Mary joined four members of the New Hope Chapter on a beautiful August afternoon sipping wine, sharing stories and shopping! It was a great time connecting with the New Hope ladies and hearing what their chapter is up to.

* The District 8 Tri 2 Meeting is scheduled for October 10. More details to come.

President/State Delegate Retreat—8/8

Chapter Presidents and State Delegates from across Minnesota met in Monticello for a day of position-specific learning, sharing and fellowship.



USWT WRITING COMPETITION

Mid-Year Writing Competition
Entry Fee: \$5.00

Deadline: September 10, 2026

Topic: Share a story of when someone else's kindness impacted you — or when you brightened someone's day by showing kindness. Building community and inspiration.

Make checks payable to USWT.

Mail to: Shirley Viesselman,
1015 Jefferson St SE,
Hutchinson, MN 55350

2026 MNWT Fall State Convention—9/18-19 in Baxter, Minnesota



Join members from across the state as we “*Rock Your Flock*” at The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes in Baxter. The convention will feature a project fair Friday evening, business meeting and banquet on Saturday, and lots of opportunities to network with other Women of Today leaders. Registration form is attached at the end of the newsletter.



USWT Mid-Year Convention—10/2-3 in Kansas City, Missouri

The purpose of the Mid-Year Convention is to present awards and to hold a business meeting. This year's theme is “*Bubbling with Excitement!*” Registration form is attached at the end of the newsletter and also available online at uswomenoftoday.org.



Saturday Luncheon

Chips and salsa
Marinated Chicken Fajitas
Seasoned Taco Meat
Flour & Corn Tortillas
& All the fixings
Spanish Rice
Refried Beans
& Churros

Saturday Evening Banquet

Chicken Parmesan
Cheese Tortellini with
Red Sauce & Alfredo Sauce
Meatballs
Salad
Garlic Bread Sticks
Fettuccine Noodles
Parmesan Cheese
ChefChoice Dessert

Saturday Night Party

Rock Your Flock Party!
Come dressed as a rocker, a
flamingo, or a rocking flamingo!
The DJ will be spinning tunes to
keep us rocking all night long.
Join the flock and bring your
best rock-star style!

Join in the Fun at the Fall State Project Fair on Friday!

Reservations need to be made by August 19, 2026. Call 218-822-5634 for reservations—mention MNWT for group rate. All suites include mini fridge/microwave. For more details visit <https://lodgeatbrainerdlakes.com>.

Rates: \$189 – Suite, \$139 – double or single occupancy.

MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY FALL STATE CONVENTION 2026

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Chapter _____ District _____

Email Address _____

Advance registration must be postmarked by September 1st. Refund requests must be made by September 8, 2026. A \$5 cancellation fee will apply. Registration received at Fall State 2026 are not guaranteed meals.

Advanced Registration (By Sept. 1st)

Full Registration \$112
Business Meeting \$7
Saturday Luncheon \$50
Saturday Banquet \$60
Saturday Night Party \$15

Late Registration (After Sept. 1st)

Full Registration \$128
Business Meeting \$7
Saturday Luncheon \$55
Saturday Banquet \$65
Saturday Night Party \$20

Make checks payable to
BLAWT and mail to:
BLAWT, P.O. Box 1225,
Brainerd, MN 56401

For General Information
Call or Text Gerrin Dehn
507-301-4820
Or email:
blawt@hotmail.com

Women of Today Information (check one):

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

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

**US Women of Today Mid-Year Meeting
October 2-3, 2026
Kansas City, Missouri**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Chapter/State: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

How are you traveling? ☐ Driving ☐ Flying

Arrival Date/Time: _____

Flight Airline & #: _____ **Interested in Thursday 10/1 Group Activity?** _____

Women of Today Information: ☐ Member ☐ First Timer ☐ Guest ☐ Board ☐ Past USWT President

FLYING: Fly into Kansas City International (MCI). The hotel provides free 24/7 airport shuttle to and from the airport. You will need to arrange with the hotel for your pick up and drop off, at least 2 days prior to travel.

Check the event for which you wish to register	Advance Registration	Late Registration
FULL REGISTRATION	☐ \$125.00	☐ \$140.00
Friday Meetings/Forums	☐ \$5.00	☐ \$10.00
Friday Night Party	☐ \$25.00	☐ \$30.00
SATURDAY ONLY	☐ \$90.00	☐ \$100.00
Saturday Meetings/Forums	☐ \$20.00	☐ \$25.00
Saturday Luncheon	☐ \$35.00	☐ \$40.00
Saturday Banquet	☐ \$40.00	☐ \$45.00

Advance Registration must be postmarked by 9/7/2026

Make Checks payable to:

Trumanland Women of Today

Mail this form and check to:

Laura Morris 2460 NE Dale Hunter Pl,
Lees Summit, MO 64086

Email questions to:

uswt2223presLauraM@gmail.com

Any cancelled registration refunds must be requested before 9/2/26, a \$10 cancellation fee will apply.

HOTEL AND MEETING INFORMATION: Rooms are held until 9/1/2026

Wyndham Garden at Kansas City International Airport

7600 NW 97th Terr, Kansas City, MO 64153

[Link to Hotel Reservation Block Rooms](#) or

816-601-0417 tell them "US Women of Today Mid-Year"

\$130 per night plus tax

Hotel will have a bar that is open in the evenings.

TLWT will provide beverages, snacks and treats at the meeting room instead of a hospitality room.

Block of Rooms include Junior Suites

with 2 Double Beds or 1 King Bed,

Rooms are spacious and include:

a sofa bed pull-out, mini-

fridge and coffee maker

Free: breakfast, parking and internet

Please note any special dietary requirements or allergies here: