

THE CALLIOPE

Spring 2007

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAWT PRESIDENT, JULIE HUTCHINSON

A new season is upon us and the world is just waiting for some internal time clock to ring the alarm and bring forth a fresh new beginning. The crocuses have been blooming along my foundation for the past few weeks and I can see the sprouting of new growth in my flowerbeds and on the trees. It is also a time for the Women of Today to bring forth a new season - the new boards for our chapters and state. What will you blossom into this year?

As I have grown throughout my tenure with the Women of Today, I can look back to when I first joined or planted my roots and smile. I was that member who faithfully came to the meeting, at the time I wasn't quite sure what drew me in, but I would come back each month although - you wouldn't catch me speaking in front of the group. You could say that the weeds of the petrified tongue had sprouted and were overgrowing causing me to panic each time I was asked to speak. My fellow members have been good gardeners by pulling the weeds and fertilizing my self-esteem and confidence with support and friendship. The programs provided through the Women of Today have formed the basic root structure that enabled me to chair and organize my first project, certify in the areas of Individual Development, to become a chapter president, to become the state president and guide me into the future by becoming a better person. Yes, I have grown into a stronger person and each year I begin unknowing how much I will grow. Will I be the bright spring daffodil, a beautiful rose who needs special handling, a daylily - here today and gone tomorrow or a sunflower, who is bright, beautiful and strong and comes in all types and varieties.

Massachusetts Women of Today are "Growing Strong for a Brighter Future" and I am fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful & supportive group. I thank you for the past year and invite you to let yourselves grow and become a part of the new garden. Consider your place in the Women of Today Garden and blossom in the new year.

As always, in friendship

Julie Hutchinson
MA WOT President



I'd like to do everything I can to avoid being an old person who says, "Why didn't I do that? Why didn't I take that chance?"

Barbara Streisand

Calendar of Events – Past, Present, Future and



Ongoing.....

Volunteer Recognition Week – April 15-21, 2007

MSPCC material deadline notification – April 15

May Convention – May 5, 2007 - RSVP by April 20th

Award Recognition – (submissions due **April 25th, 2007** – see Pg 3 for more info)

ID Challenges – (See Pg 4 for more info) – **Deadline April 26th**

PR Challenge – (See Pgs 4-7 for more info) – **Deadline April 15 & May 5th**

ID Competitions/Deadlines - (See Pg 13 for more info) – **Deadline May 1st**

Bucket of Sunshine – (See Pg 5 for more info) - **Donations due May 5th**

State Store – (See Pg 10) – Deadline in advance of May 5th meeting

National Convention 2007 – June 14-17 – Pittsburg, PA



You're Invited to a Garden Party MAWT State Meeting on Saturday, May 5th

Greater Attleboro Women of Today invite you to attend the year-end state meeting to celebrate our year & to cultivate friendships.

Please RSVP by April 20th.

Registration form and more details are on page 15 of this edition of the Calliope or found on the MAWOT website.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAWT COB, SUE BEATTIE

Can you believe this current Women of Today year will soon be over? Most of us will take the summer months to rejuvenate and look forward to the upcoming 2007-2008 year.

Now's the time to consider what impact you can have on the MA WOT. Think about what you have gained by being involved in this organization. Such as friendships, community knowledge, a sense of accomplishment for completing a project, etc. Now is your chance to give back.

As you know, we cannot continue to exist without the support of our members. If you have never held a state position, please consider it. If you have held a state position in the past, how about trying a new one. After all, one of the many advantages to being a WOT is the opportunity for personal growth.

Do you want people to know you as “the person who is a fan of that television show” or, as an officer of a formidable national organization? IT’S UP TO YOU!

Thus far, we have volunteers for Newsletter Editor, Secretary, and Chaplain. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any questions or would like to leave your mark in the MA Women of Today.

Sue Beattie
MA COB

News from our MAWT Board members

Hello Women of Today!

Year end is upon us. I know there are some great ladies out there who need to be recognized. Chapter Presidents please submit your candidates for judging for the 4th quarter. The categories are outstanding Rookie, Women and Officer. Please include only what the member has done in the 4th quarter. (Feb 1st- April 30th).

Year end awards for the same categories are due at the same time. This is where you can tell us all the great things these members have done all year. We also have an award for year end for **Unsung Hero**. Use the same format and tell how this member has worked in the background and has impacted the chapter and community through out the year.

All entries are due on or before **April 25th**.

February State Meeting Winners

Rookie	Beverly Barry	Chelmsford
Women	Judy Romero	Gr. Attleboro
Officer	Cheryl Farley	Mansfield
Most Spirit	Louise Orum	Gr. Attleboro

It has been a great experience being Awards Program Manager this year. Please consider joining the State E-Board as Awards Program Manger it has been a fun job.

See you all at the May meeting.

Eileen Murray
Awards Program Manager
Vze2rqgj@verizon.net

Hello from the Land of ID

Wow, I can't believe the year-end is right around the corner! Let's push the certification numbers over the top! Keep up the good work attaining certifications in Personal Enrichment, Focus on Women and Chaplain!

Remember: All new members can achieve STEP I within the 1st three months of joining, STEP II within the 1st year of joining and STEP III every year thereafter for all members. Our members can also achieve STEP without signing a new member as long as they have met the other requirements.

*****Challenges*****

Any member that attains all 5 areas of PE (effective speaking/writing, leadership, team building and effective listening) by April 26th will receive a thank you gift at the May State Meeting!

Members that attain Focus on Women and Chaplain as well as the 5 PE areas will receive an additional gift!

All participants in the effective writing/effective speaking or Focus on Women competitions will be entered into a drawing for the May State Meeting!

Think of yourself as flowers and with each ID area that you certify in you are adding another petal. By certifying in all areas, you will "grow" into a beautiful flower!

"Grow" with ID!

***Louise Orum
ID Program Manager***

Publicity Report

The next big publicity opportunity is "National Volunteer Week" on April 15-21, 2007, "Inspired by Example" because it truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help, as well as to inspire others to serve.

For information go to this website, <http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

As the Women of Today year end approaches, there are still several areas to focus on. First are two types of Buckets of Sunshine. Participating either locally or through USWT is an easy way to help others and be recognized for public relations. If your chapter has done a collection for a homeless shelter, family in need, toy drive, food pantry or the like, please complete the Buckets of Sunshine form (available on www.mawt.org), the **USWT Buckets of Sunshine Participation Form** and send it to USWT PR Director Cindy Urlacher at curlacher66@msn.com

If you haven't held a local collection, please consider doing one in your chapter or in your community for USWT Buckets of Sunshine

Buckets of Sunshine - This is a yearly ongoing project that ends during National Convention in June. The Annual Buckets of Sunshine Program this year is: Bethlehem Haven – Pittsburgh, PA. www.bethlehemhaven.org

Most of the women go there to get their lives back together
And they are looking for donations to help there clients on a daily basis.

Here is the list of gift cards that we can purchase:

Best Buy	Giant Eagle
Home Depot	Macy's Department Store
Target	Fridays
Walmart	Kohl's Department Store
K mart	Max and Erma's
Lowes	

If interested, please bring a check or gift card to our Massachusetts Women of Today May 5th State Meeting as I will be collecting all donations on that day and giving all proceeds to our State President, Julie Hutchinson so that she in turn can bring them with her to the National Convention. If for some reason no one from your chapter can attend the State meeting, please be sure to forward you check and/or gift card to Julie by May 5th. Thank You!! Checks should be made out to U.S.W.T. Buckets of Sunshine or to Bethlehem Haven. The mission of Bethlehem Haven is to serve homeless women by providing them supportive housing and assisting them to achieve self-sufficiency. **Please DO NOT send checks/gift cards directly to Bethlehem Haven.**

I want to thank all who donated their spare change at the Massachusetts Women of Today 2007 Winter Convention to the U.S.W.T Buckets of Sunshine, a collection of almost \$30.00 was collected. I will be purchasing a gift card for the shelter from these proceeds.

Here are some ways you can conduct a Buckets of Sunshine Program in your area:

1. Appoint a project chairperson and a committee.
2. Choose an agency in your community where families in crisis seek help. Some suggestions are:

Food Pantries

Crisis Centers

Red Cross

Churches	Schools	Halfway Houses
Family Violence	Women's Shelters	Foster Homes
Adult Daycare Centers	Veteran's Centers	Counseling Centers

3. Decide on the "buckets" (type of containers) for your donation items and the contents for the buckets. Contents could range from personal care products to school supplies to baby items. Use your imagination or contact the agency to determine the types of items their clients need.
4. How will you acquire the necessary items? Here are some suggestions:
 - o Seek donations from local merchants and manufacturers
 - o Hold a special fundraiser and designate money raised to purchase items
 - o Have chapter members donate items
 - o Use funds from chapter treasury to purchase items (set a budget)
 - o Set up collection points in local businesses, schools or public buildings
5. Have a committee meeting to finalize plans for purchasing/picking up items, assembling buckets and donating buckets to the facility. Write local newsletter articles if necessary.
6. Purchase/pick up items and assemble buckets. Be sure to include a note explaining that this bucket is part of a kindness chain and ask the recipient to keep the chain going by doing something nice for someone else. Also be sure to include a copy of your chapter brochure.
7. Prepare a press release.

**SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE
 BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE PROJECT**

Contact Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The focus of the "Buckets of Sunshine" project is to provide buckets of supplies such as personal care items and cleaning supplies to people in need in shelters and crisis centers. The _____ Women of Today are donating (include number of buckets, recipient, contents and other important facts).

The United States Women of Today chartered in 1985 and will celebrate their 20th anniversary in the year 2005. During those years they have celebrated many successful educational and fundraising partnerships with other groups such as March of Dimes, Leukemia Society, Arthritis Foundation, Breast Cancer Awareness and other local causes. The United States Women of Today is an organization open to all persons at least 18 years of age interested in community service, personal enrichment and leadership training.

The _____ Women of Today have been serving this community for _____ years. Some of their projects include (list projects). The _____ Women of Today meet (location, date and time). For more information contact _____ at _____.

8. Contact the agency and local media to schedule a convenient time to deliver the buckets to the facility. Have a photo taken to accompany your press release.
9. Send thank you notes to any person/business who donated items for the buckets.

No matter what the event or activity, make public relations a part of everything you do. There are several ways to publicize an event or advertise Women of Today:

- Press release to your Daily Newspaper
- Press release to your Weekly/Monthly Community Papers
- Posting flyers on Bulletin Boards to advertise upcoming events and/or meetings
- Your local Cable Station
- Public service announcements to your local radio station
- Wear your chapter shirts or nametags at every chapter event
- Get a Website set up for your chapter if you have not done so yet (Contact Simon Curry - our Webmaster).

The possibilities are endless! Our best public relations tool is YOU! Be excited about this great organization and tell other people about it. Public Relations is everyone's job.

Being sure to note further information in your articles about Women of Today, go to www.mawt.org.

And of course the best way is; Word of Mouth – so spread the word!

I would also like to remind State Officers of my challenge that I extended to you to visit each chapter at least once in this Women of Today year. If you visited all chapters once, I will reward you at the May 5th State Meeting. So please email me the name of the chapter and the date of your visits. [The deadline for this challenge will be April 15th.](#)

I would like to say that it has been my pleasure to be your Massachusetts Women of Today Publicity Director these past two years. If there is anyone who is interested in taking this position I would be happy to speak with you. Please feel free to give me a call or speak with me on May 5th at the State Meeting. I hope someone will step out of your comfort zone and go for it, I'm glad I did! (Thank you to Lisa Jessick for the wonderful training you provided for me, as the previous State Publicity Director, when I took the position. I felt a little intimidated, hoping I could fill your shoes – I hope I made you proud.)

All the best to all of you, you're the best!

Brighten Every Avenue of Media

Elaine Tallini

Massachusetts Women of Today

Publicity Director 2006-2007

(508) 226-1434

etallini@comcast.net

It's hard to believe, but we are entering the end of our Women of Today year! How time flies! Fourth Quarter dues are just coming in so I don't have final membership totals for the year yet, but I will gladly announce them with pride at the May State Meeting! There is still time to add new members, however, so remember to encourage your members to invite guests and to make them feel welcome!

Lastly, a very special and sincere thanks to all the local Membership VP's for all the time, energy and hard work you have put into helping our organization grow and retain its membership. You should each be proud of what you have accomplished this year!

In Friendship,
Christine Palomba
MA Membership VP

A Note from your MSPCC State Charity PM

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for the donations we have received thus far for 2006/2007. The MSPCC has greatly appreciated our help in fundraising and looks forward to another year of partnership.

I do want to let you know the new folders and brochures are available. I have had MSPCC send out out packets for those that have requested the new materials. Some materials went directly to project chairs and a few went to myself. I will be passing them out at the May State meeting.

I appreciate all the exposure for MSPCC and I know they appreciate it as well.

If you need any additional materials, please let me know before [April 15th](#). I can have them sent, so I can disperse them at the May meeting.

Thank you
Amy Morrison
State Charity PM

We're in the final stretch of our commitment to POAC. We fell short of my 3yr/ \$5,000 goal, but not by much! Thank you all, you are amazing ladies!

So far, during our three year commitment to POAC, you have raised \$4,145.00 **BUT THERE IS STILL TIME!!** In these last few weeks, as you are deciding on where to send your final contributions for the 2006-2007 year, please **remember POAC**, if you have not already sent in your donation.

Thank you BELLINGHAM and Massachusetts Women of Today for your donations!

Not only have you monetarily supported POAC through your donations over the last three years, our chapters have been educating our members and communities on the characteristics, research and developments of autism and the need to provide better education for autistic children. Unfortunately, there are still a lot more questions than answers concerning autism.

“Autism is no longer a problem that affects families. It’s a problem that affects our entire society.”

Thank you again!
Help us help POAC, to help solve the puzzle.
Kathy Simmons
POAC, MA WOT

Webmaster’s Report

Do you remember the Maytag repairman? Well, I’ve replaced him! How about the movie personality who lamented “I took my harp to the party, but nobody asked me to play!”?

It’s been a bit like that for me, the past few years, but there have been some signs of *intelligent* life recently. Of course, I spend a certain amount of time each day blocking *non-intelligent* life forms from our bulletin board and websites – hackers and other strange deviants who really need to “get a life”.

Thanks to Elaine, Greater Attleboro is now the latest chapter to build a website and, since Elaine and Judy very much wanted to be able to own some of the content on a continuing basis, it became clear that the dynamic part of all of this is the activities we all have fun doing. It also became clear that control of this information this could, and should, be turned over, in a secure manner, to the membership without having to wait for the bottleneck – that’s me – to let the information through.

This has led to some changes but these changes won’t lead to success unless our membership makes use of them: if you have a computer at home, it really is very easy to do this.

Our state website, <http://www.mawt.org>, has a link to our bulletin board. The bulletin board has been reorganized, so that Chapter, State and National events are front-and-center. If you want to know what’s going on, this should be the place to go and have a look. All of the Chapter websites that I manage also have direct links to their Chapters’ event notices on the bulletin board: so there are several ways to get there.

“But Wait!”, as those noise-some pestilences on the TV shout at us, “There’s More!”. Guess who gets to post notices about all these exciting events? *You do!*

Anyone can read the public notices on the bulletin board but once you register with the bulletin board, *you* can also post notices about the events and activities that you want to share with us. This is great communication, great publicity and a way of reducing problems with email: getting too much, forgetting to include intended recipients, and so on.

Just once, when you fill in the registration [just the important parts, skip the gobbledygook], I get to make sure that you are one of us. After that, nobody gets in your way.

Above all, don't forget that I'm here to help.

Have a GREAT summer!
webmaw@mawt.org



Spring is here although it doesn't feel like it this week. My daylilies are poking through the ground and the Goldfinches are back on the bird feeders.

Don't forget to take your cameras to your meetings and events and capture those fun moments for posterity! Send me copies of flyers for your events, newspaper articles and photos. Thanks for the items you have already sent via my email, MWOT-Historian@hotmail.com, or through Julie and Sue. You can mail items to me at home, 8 Pony Court, Bellingham, MA 02019 or bring them to state meetings. If I am not there Sue Beattie or Julie Hutchinson can bring them to me.

Let's make this the best scrapbook ever!

Dee Clark
MWOT Historian
Connecting Our Past With Our Future

Planning year-end incentives? Hate fighting traffic and crowds at stores? Why not give a MA WOT pen or mug! You will not only be giving an acknowledgment for their efforts, but also be giving a lasting memento of their dedicated service to the Women of Today.

Please let me know in advance of the May 5 state meeting if you would like anything from the State Store.



Purse'uing a Profitable Future

Sue Beattie
MA Treasurer

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all your help in making this year's Calliope a success. Each edition was... what is the word... oh I know... LENGTHY.

I believe we reached our goal of using the Calliope as a way to achieve awareness to the local chapters about Massachusetts Women of Today, United States Women of Today and news from each other's chapter.

Pat deMoor
Newsletter Editor

Hello from Bellingham Chapter

My second year of President is coming to an end. Two years gone in the blink of an eye. I have met and worked with wonderful members from other chapters and other states, met many new members of the community, had fun, laughed, learned and have grown as a person. I recently sent my brother an e-mail survey to describe me in one word. He came back with "limitless". What?? I had to call him to explain. He said "You know, you work full time, you're a Mom and a soccer Mom, you are involved in the community and the Women of Today and active in the church, to me, limitless". I never looked at myself that way. I sure wasn't this way before I joined the Women of Today. We are all very fortunate to belong to such a great organization. Our year in Bellingham is winding down. We just had a very successful Muffins with the Easter Bunny, 50/50 raffle, Easter Baskets for Elderly Shut Ins and are preparing for Mother's Day flowers for 2 shelters, scholarships and walking in the Bellingham Memorial Day Parade. We are also in the planning stage of having a Craft/Flea Fair in September. Membership is a major concern for us as we are down to 15 members. Unfortunately, this seems to be a national trend. So, even though we don't meet in the summer, building our membership will be a priority. Happy Spring!!!

Shaving the Magic Dawn

Hello from Chelmsford Chapter

Hello from Chelmsford! Thanks to all of you who participated in our chapter's recent Yankee Candle Sale. Once again it was a successful fundraiser for us. Part of the proceeds may help cover the cost of the 27 Easter Baskets we donated to the kids at the Alternative House Shelters under Buckets of Sunshine, as well as quilt materials for Project Linus.

Since Chelmsford does not meet in July and August, we are busily preparing for our year-end activities. And our incoming Board is almost filled! I'm proud of the members who are stepping forward to give their talents to the chapter and the community. Believe me ladies & gents, it will be a rewarding year!

In friendship-
Marcia Allison

Hello from Easton Chapter

Easton Women of Today are having a very busy start to their year! We sponsored another successful 'Skate Day' where we supply hot dogs, hot chocolate and soup etc. to the community as they skate on the local rink. The local people are very appreciative of this and the event is growing each year. We actually MADE money this year with cash

donations. We are now in the middle of planning our 'Spring Fundraiser'. We are going to do the same as last year and have it in the local Memorial hall with a band and BYO food and drink. We are hoping its going to be a big success again. We are having a positive response to our new membership letters and we seem to be getting together another strong group of officers for 2007-2008! Thank you.

Julia Gillespie

Hello from Georgetown Chapter

Spring has Sprung! We held our annual Breakfast With the Easter Bunny on March 25. Fun was had by all and we raised around \$300! Thanks to Bonnie Malo for chairing this event.

Our last fundraiser of the year is our Ice Cream Social, in partnership with our police department. People will be able to enjoy a delicious ice cream while signing up for a town baseball camp that the police department sponsors. It is great exposure for both organizations and builds community spirit.

We would also like to welcome 2 new members, Sari Eaton and Elani Mautzourani.

Hello from Greater Attleboro Chapter

Can you believe our year is almost over!

We have kept ourselves busy the last couple of months. Our Muffins with the Easter Bunny fundraiser went very well despite snow/rain the day before. We were fairy godmothers again this year at the Fairy Godmother project in Taunton. Elaine is gearing up for a membership drive in April. We are looking forward to hosting the May state meeting. (Registration form is available on the Mass website)

Hope to see all of you in May!

Louise Orum

President, Greater Attleboro Women of Today

Hello from Mansfield Chapter

Wow!! What a fabulous Mother Daughter Tea and Fashion Show. It took many months of hard work and planning and it certainly resulted in making this event a huge success. Thank you to each and every one of you who worked on this worthwhile event.

Community Development has been busy. We are in the works for Adopt a Family, Relay for Life, Scholarship, Beauty Boost and All Night Senior Party. Our Spring Easter Egg Hunt was a fun time by all the children and families and it was a beautiful day.

Thank you Mansfield Women of Today for a fulfilling enjoyable year.

"CARING HEARTS WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE"

MARY R. JOYCE

Hello from Norton Chapter

Under the leadership of our "Guest Presidents", Norton Women of Today has had a busy 2007. Our Beautiful Baby contest, Library Story Hour, our Sunday

Tea, and our Fairy Godmother project have all been successful thanks to the hard work and time put in by our members. Norton will be having its 13th Annual Women of Today banquet. Hopefully a member will step up and be the next NWOT President to lead us into the next year.

2006 - 2007 Individual Development Competitions/Deadlines
(United States and Massachusetts Women of Today)
PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

Effective Speaking:

National Year End Competition only

Topic: **“Who has been vital seeds in your Garden of Life?”**

Guidelines: 4 - 6 minutes; submit stat sheet; requires attendance at Year-end National Convention

Cost: \$5.00 - payable to USWT; reimbursable by MWOT

Deadline: **May 1, 2007 postmark OR Have until 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2007 to enter**

Submit to National PE PM (**Chellie Funsch 110 Sidener Lane Springfield, IL 62707**

pe@uswt.org)

Notify State ID PM (Louise Orum, 23C Benefit Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 - lro2@netzero.net) of members entering competition

Effective Writing:

National Year End Competition

Topic: **“What would be your ultimate Garden of Life ? “**

Guidelines: 600 - 800 words, typed, single sided, double spaced, 5 copies with stat sheet

Does not require attendance at National Convention

Cost: \$5.00 payable to USWT; reimbursable by MWOT

Deadline: May 1, 2007 postmark

Submit to National PE PM (**Chellie Funsch 110 Sidener Lane Springfield, IL 62707**

pe@uswt.org)

Notify State ID PM (Louise Orum, 23C Benefit Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 - lro2@netzero.net) of members entering competition

S.T.E.P.

National Year End Competition

Step II: Resume' only - see USWT forms

Does not require attendance at National Convention

Guidelines: 4 copies of each resume

Cost: \$5.00 payable to USWT; reimbursable by MWOT

Deadline: May 1, 2007 postmark

Submit to National STEP PM (**Joyce Harpster 411 s. 17th St, Nebraska City, NE 68410**

step@uswt.org)

Notify State ID PM (Louise Orum, 23C Benefit Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 - lro2@netzero.net) of members entering competition

STEP III - Resume' and interview

Requires attendance at National Year End Convention

Cost: \$5.00 payable to USWT, reimbursable by MWOT

Deadline: May 1, 2007 postmark

Submit to National STEP PM (**Joyce Harpster 411 s. 17th St, Nebraska City, NE 68410**
step@uswt.org)

Notify State ID PM (Louise Orum, 23C Benefit Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 - lro2@netzero.net) of members entering competition

FOCUS ON WOMEN

National Year End Competition

Essay Topic: *“Real Beauty.” -Some essay ideas may be, but are not limited to: How do you celebrate real beauty? What does “real beauty” mean to you? What/Who is the “real beauty” in your life?*

Guidelines: 800 - 1200 words; typed, double spaced; send 4 copies with 4 stat sheets - each copy

in a binder or folder

Does not require attendance at National Convention

Cost: \$5.00 payable to USWT; reimbursable by MWOT

Deadline: May 1, 2007 postmark

Submit to National FOW/Chaplain PM (**Vicki Jo Smith- 525 Hammond Road York, PA 17406**
fowc@uswt.org;

Notify State ID PM (Louise Orum, 23C Benefit Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 - lro2@netzero.net) of members entering competition

Massachusetts Women of Today *2007 Winter Convention was a great success*

The Massachusetts Women of Today 2007 Winter Convention Tri-Chair Committee of Elaine Tallini, Louise Orum, and Laurie Carney, all from the Greater Attleboro Women of Today chapter, would like to thank everyone who attended the Winter Convention that was held on February 2-3, 2007, and for those who completed the survey form, this information is very useful when planning the next convention. We were thrilled to have over 40 Massachusetts chapter members in attendance, including 5 members from National. This was very exciting for us! We hope you had a wonderful weekend to remember – I know we did!

As some of you may know, planning a weekend convention takes the time and energy of many. We'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the following for their participation and/or donation: **Sue Beattie, of the Bellingham Chapter for manning the registration table for us on Saturday morning, Jeanne Simington-Hagar, Kathy Griffin, Cathi Horowitz, Eileen Murray, Christine Palomba; all members of the Mansfield Chapter, and Judy Romero of the Greater Attleboro Chapter for helping with the “Lucky Buck Auction”, to Sharon Turk of the Mansfield Chapter, for the delicious and ever so popular “Granny Peanut Butter Balls”, Julie Hutchinson of the Bellingham Chapter, for another absolutely gorgeous handmade Quilt, and to the Co-Owners of Dream Dinners located in Plainville, MA; Beth Fies and Lisa Jessick of the Easton Chapter, for donating an Entrée with all the fixings!** **The "Lucky Buck Auction" was a big success - again, thank you all very much!**

I speak for Louise and myself by saying we have truly enjoyed tri-chairing this event these past three years and would not trade the experience or the memories we have from do this for anything. We want to thank **Cheryl Hopkins** (previous Greater Attleboro Women of Today

member), for first introducing us to the convention and asking us to step up and help her chair our first convention. We would also like to thank **Linda Myers** for helping us by stepping up to chair our second Winter Convention and, to **Laurie Carney** for stepping up to help us chair our third Winter Convention; (both ladies I am proud to say are members of the Greater Attleboro Women of Today chapter). **All of these ladies we such a tremendous help – we couldn't have done it without them!!**

Which ever member(s) decide to step up to chair the next convention, Louise and I will be happy to hand over previous years project books and meet with you to help you get started and guide you along the way. Feel free to contact us.

We hope to see many familiar and new faces at the future Massachusetts Women of Today Winter Conventions to come – I know that we'll be there to join in the fun!!

*Your 2007 Convention Tri-Chair Committee,
Elaine Tallini, Louise Orum, and Laurie Carney*

Massachusetts Women of Today 2007 MAY Convention



May State Meeting – Come to our garden party!!!

When: Saturday, May 5, 2007

Where: American Legion Post, Rte 1A
(44 South St., Plainville, MA 02762)

Time: 10:00 (registration) 10:30 (meeting commences) 11:30 (lunch break)

Cost: \$15 (check made out to GAWOT) please enclose form below

RSVP by April 20th to:

Louise Orum
23C Benefit St
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-222-8413

Name:
Address:
Phone:

Chapter:

NEWS FROM UNITED STATES WOMEN OF TODAY

Spring has sprung and I am so HAPPY!!!!!! The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining and the birds are singing. Can't get any better than that.

Some reminders for all members:

MAY 1, 2007 – Certifications are due to me no later than this date – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!

COMPETITIONS AT YEAR END CONVENTION – To date, I have not received any entries for the competitions – the deadline date for that is May 1, 2007 for Effective Writing and June 15, 2007 for Effective Speaking. I have listed below the information for your convenience.

Year End Competition Topics

- Year End Effective Speaking topic:
'Who has been vital seeds in your Garden of Life?'

The guidelines for Effective Speaking are: You must be present at Year End convention, 4-6 minutes in length. Stat sheet (see PE manual) and a \$5.00 entry fee (check made payable to the United States Women of Today). Deadline is noon on Friday, June 15, 2007.

- Year End Effective Writing topic:
'What would be your ultimate Garden of Life?'

The guidelines for Effective Writing are 600 – 800 words, typed, double spaced, single sided, \$5.00 entry fee (check made payable to the United States Women of Today) and a Stat

Sheet (see PE manual). Send **5 copies** to me by May 1st for Year End.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please let me know.

Hope to see YOU in Pittsburgh!!!!

Love to all,
Chellie Funsch
USWT Personal Enrichment PM



Walk with Sunshine U.S.W.T External Program - 4th Quarter Newsletter

Some kids with mild autism will grow up and be able to live on their own. Those with more serious problems will always need some kind of help. But all kids with autism have brighter futures when they have the support and understanding of doctors, teachers, caregivers, parents, brothers, sisters, and friends.

Friends - that's you. Thank you for your support for POAC this past year. We still need to get donations in and magazines ordered. Your donation will help pay for the education and training needed for the teachers, caregivers, parents, brothers, sisters, and friends. However - I do need to remind you that all donations to POAC must be sent to me in order for you to get credit for it. This is also true with the magazine orders. At a recent state visit someone mentioned to me, they sent in their donation to POAC, not realizing that it needs to come through me. I will put in my address at the end of this newsletter. The magazine order form is on our national web site at

<http://www.uswt.org/Library/USWT%20POAC%20Magazine%20sell.pdf>.

Each subscription is \$19.95

and we will get \$5.00 back to donate to POAC.

The magazines make great gifts for

Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Secret Pass or Secret Sisters, or to a friend that needs a little pick me up from time to time. If you order this for someone, write it on the form and I will send them a note telling them a gift subscription is on the way.

At the beginning of the year I asked that you send me information about the other organizations you are supporting in your community related to autism. Let me know what's been donated and the hours worked. Autism Awareness is just that - Autism Awareness. I appreciate every effort made in getting awareness to our members and out into the communities. I realize POAC isn't in most of the states we represent, so if you preferred to support an autism group in your area, please let me know about it.

Please get all information to me no later than the 5th of May for recognition at year end convention where "The Pirates Come Out To Play".

The External Programs supported by the United States Women of Today, in previous years, are March of Dimes, Arthritis Foundation, Leukemia Society, RESOLVE, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Multiple Sclerosis Society, and now we add Parents of Autistic Children.

Again I Thank You for your support.

Janet Esper, External Program Manager
5613 Rosewood
Springfield, Illinois 627087

EsperJ@aol.com - 217-793-1922

Minutes from February 3, 2007 MAWT State Meeting

Rules of the Day

Noted all MWOT chapters present.

Invocation

Judy Romero from US WOT

Read a poem written by her niece titled "New Chance".

MWOT President's Report -Julie Hutchinson thanked Marlborough for hosting the state meeting. Introduced our guests from National: Cindy Hilbert, Vicky Jo Smith, and Brenda Almoney.

Cindy Hilbert

President of US WOT gave her President's report.

Creed titled Patchwork of Friendship. Explained that WOT is like a patchwork quilt and that all its members are different, unique, and add their own specialty to the group. Put out to all the members of our organization to lend your hand to a new friend and bring a new member to WOT. Our numbers are down all over. If you sign new members, your name will be put into a raffle for a patchwork quilt. The drawing will be made at the National Convention scheduled for June 14-17 in Pittsburgh. All the rooms are booked at Holiday Inn, but overflow can still reserve rooms at the Hampton Inn which is located right next door. When making your reservation, mention that you are with WOT.

Buckets of Sunshine for National will continue to be the Bethlehem Haven, a homeless women's shelter that provided housing, clothing, food, and help women with job interviews. Not receiving external charity programs to partner with our organization. There is on the table a bylaw change to drop external program if no external charity is requests out support to then promote the Buckets of Sunshine.

Second bylaw change is to change the date of the mid year convention to second weekend of January which more accurately reflects the midyear to WOT planned year.

Officers Report

Start thinking about stepping forward to fill positions for next year with MWOT. Acting state board members are very supportive and eager to answer any questions that our members may have on filling any of these positions.

Treasurers Report

Sue Beattie

Reported checkbook balance \$5230.12

Donations total \$17956.45

Will purchase the Quicken computer software program that was already voted in at last state meeting.

Programming VP

Robin Walsh

State charity MSPCC has one more year as our state charity.

Time to solicit a new external State charity by September so the charities can get back to MWOT by November state meeting. Charities will be invited to speak and give their presentation at February state meeting, and then final vote will be taken at May meeting.

ID PM 346 certifications given out. Keep up the good work ladies.

MSPCC

Amy Morrison

Reported that new information brochure is available to give out to local chapters. Also if local chapters would like a speaker from the charity to come and speak to local chapters just get in touch with Amy Morrison to arrange it.

Donations being sent to MSPCC \$600.00 in addition to donation made by Chelmsford and Mansfield at the meeting.

Newsletter Editor **Pat deMoor**

Thanked all from both local chapters and National who have been supplying her and continue to give her information and articles for the Calliope. Reminded us that April 9, 2007 is the deadline for the next Calliope.

Publicity Director **Elaine Tallini**

Informed us that April 15-21 is volunteer recognition week. Check out this website pointsoflife.org. Announced awards recognition for attending another local chapters meeting. Awards will be presented at next state meeting.

National charity Buckets of Sunshine homeless women's shelter. Fundraising ideas by running toy drive and food drive. Complete form for recognition found on website.

At local level should be collecting loose change in milk cartons. Monies raised are to be brought to May state meeting to then purchase gift cards to be presented to National Buckets of Sunshine. National has a goal to raise \$4000 from this fundraising effort.

At all WOT meetings, events, newspapers, TV, radio, and WOT shirts worn by its members is the best publicity tool to publicize our organization and its mission.

Fellowship Director **Judy Romero**

Sending cards of inspiration to members when going through rough times. Need to get the word out if a fellow member needs support from friends and fellow members. Send Judy an email with any such information. MWOT will send out cards with the appropriate inspirational sayings to members when they may need it.

Webmaster **Simon Curry**

Simon didn't make the meeting, but sent a message to get the word out to all the chapters that he is still putting together the website. Local chapters please send him the information to post on the website. He also has offered to help local chapters create their own local website. Suggestion was made to designate one member from each local chapter the job to be responsible for sending their local chapter information, photos, etc. to Simon.

US WOT Webmaster **Becky Fleming**

Reported to the group to have all members check out the US WOT website (www.uswot.org). She put out two incentives for all the chapters, and they are to either set up a new website for their local chapter or to give some good suggestions on how to improve the US WOT website. If any chapter accomplishes either one of these tasks by May 1, Becky will help the individual and/or chapter receive a pin recognizing this incentive.

Awards PM **Eileen Murray**

Year End Awards deadline is April 25th. Reminder to submit members for awards for work done within that timeframe. Put local members in for the state awards: Rookie, Officer of the Year, WOT, and Spirit Award.

At the National there will be a presentation of the Unsung Hero Award to be given to a member that has been making things happen all year. All submissions need to be in by April 25.

Membership VP **Christine Palomba**

Noted first time attendees of state meeting: Beverly (Chelmsford), Ramone & Rhonda (Attleboro), Donna (Easton), and Janet (Bellingham).

MWOT for the first two quarters are + 9 members. There was 79% retention with the addition of 5 new members. MWOT is down 3 for the 3rd quarters. Every chapter urged to host a membership event, and invite friends. The goal is to be + 1 members at the end of the year.

Following chapters have 80% or more retention: Norton, Attleboro, and Mansfield (92%). 100% retention for Bellingham and Chelmsford.

New members for these chapters: Chelmsford added 2, Marshfield added 1, and Norton added 2.

Presentation of 10 year pins: Dee Clark from Bellingham, Kathy Horowitz, Mary Joyce, Janine McQueen, and Christine Copely all from Mansfield.

20 year pin given to Melanie Cherry.

Bellingham Chapter Report

Hosted Santa's Elves raised \$600.00 given to food pantry & buy gifts for children.

March 3rd partnership Common Self Defense to interest girls/women 11 or older to come and learn basic self defense in order to ward off attackers.

March 10th hosting Kubaton workshop on how to use the self defense. Membership event cost \$15.00 receive key chain representing the training received. The event has speakers, and members encourage to bring scrapbook and publicize the organization.

Chelmsford Chapter Report

Completed the holiday gift wrapping project. Project consists of having shifts of 2 or 3 members at a time committing their time to wrap gifts for shoppers at the local mall. Disappointed with their profit of only \$140.00 after the mall skims off their margin. Consider the program more of a community outreach program instead of as a fundraiser.

Upcoming project is a social event to attend the Joyce Sullivan Chair Theatre and dinner. Also, chapter under way with their Yankee Candle fundraiser.

Easton Chapter Report

Upcoming Event is a community service project working in conjunction with the Lions Club to host the Annual family skate day on their local pond that hopefully froze over. Their group will man the shed and provide free food such as hot dogs, hot cocoa, & soup. There is no charge just ask for donations.

Georgetown Chapter Report

Hosted their annual Muffins with Santa fundraising event and made about \$400.00 plus. Group came together in response to devastating fire in town, and provided household items, Christmas gifts for the kids, and food/drinks for the fireman while fighting the fire.

Planning a social event to experience Dream Dinners, and hosting the Easter Bunny Breakfast.

Attlenborough Chapter Report

Hosted an American Red Cross blood drive in their town. Happy to report that 80 people donated blood.

Looking forward to an evening out with the New Hope Gourmet Guys. This is a fundraiser where you get to eat and have fun while 40 men impress you with their food specialties. Also planning their Muffins with the Easter Bunny where kids can get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny, receive goodie bags, and take part in donated items being raffled off.

Mansfield Chapter Report

Mansfield chapter held a Membership Night. They held the event at their library and had two speakers on subject matters of nutrition and fitness. With this event, they thought of different ways to attract new people by putting flyers in the post office, library, supermarkets, stores, sent emails out to friends and spread by word of mouth. They hold two membership nights. One is in the fall and is informal at a member's house. In the winter, it is a more formal event. Upcoming event is their Tea and Fashion held in March. This event provides fashion snapshots of spring women's fashions all provided by clothing vendors. They sold out last year so they expect a full house this year.

Norton Chapter Report

Norton was very successful with their Letters from Santa fundraising event. With this event, members send out individualized letters for \$5.00 per order. They received 88 hits on their website, and sent out 300 letters to children from Santa of Norton. This event net them \$1288.00. Upcoming project for this chapter is a community development project to provide prom dresses and related paraphernalia for high school girls to attend their Junior/Senior prom. The chapter acts as a fairy godmother for the day by providing financial disadvantaged girls with what they need to attend and experience their prom.

US WOT COB

Brenda Almoney

Encourage all members to challenge themselves, but with the warning not to take on too much and burn themselves out. Start with your local chapter, and then perhaps if feeling up to taking a chance serve on State or National boards. She encouraged all us of us to take a chance and have a positive experience.

Petition to make a few changes to the bylaws such as:

Each chapter advised to take back to local chapters and report back to state on how the membership feels about these proposed changes that were previously discussed in the meeting.

USWOT FOW/Chaplain Vicki Jo Smith

Recognized and received gift awards as a thank you for their first year of service with National: Louise Orum, Judy Romero, and Julie Hutchinson.

Kathy Simmons presented with the National WOT award .

Focus on Women can obtain and complete the checklist form and certify while attending a State/National meetings.

Year End effective writing Focus on Women Essay. Theme of the essay is to celebrate your internal real beauty. The essay must have between 800-1200 words double spaced and be submitted by May 1.

Marcie Hanson, WOT Member, overwhelmed with thanks for all the cards and support with well wishes for her child awaiting a lung transplant. A portion of the raffle money from the state meeting (\$100) was sent to her and her family.

Congratulations to all those members that received Awards in recognition for all their hard work and dedication to making the Women of Today organization a success.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Joanne Laut