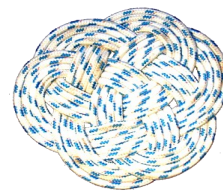




"Knotty Times"

Monticello Women of Today



Edition 2022-2023 — Issue 1

Editor: Cat Shuman

A Word from Your Editor

Welcome to the first newsletter for our 2022-2023 Women of Today Year! This is a special board edition so you can get to know your board members a little better. As you read about each of these members, there will be a Q&A on the last page. Email me at catshuman@tds.net with your answers by Nov 2nd and you might win an incentive for participating!

The next edition of the newsletter should come out in November with information about our chapter from 1st trimester, Fall State convention, and District 5 meeting. I invite all members to submit pictures to me for the newsletter—can email or text them.

Sit back and enjoy the read!

Barb Boeck, President

Untie the "KNOTS" - We Can, We Will, We Did

Barb joined our chapter six years ago to meet other ladies in the area. She not only made fantastic friends, but has felt fulfilled by helping others through our projects.

What are her best memories? She says she has so many wonderful memories that fill her heart, but the greatest gift is what happened recently. She is so impressed with all the kindness shown after the car accident. She has received texts, phone calls, flowers, and cards from all over the state. She is grateful for all the care from our chapter: phone calls and texts to check in, taking her places, doing errands, and bringing food. "You filled my heart with so much love and kindness" Barb writes.

What does she like about chapter meetings? It brings so much joy in watching people develop and become leaders. Our meetings are full of laughter, conversation, and kindness.



New Board Officers installed at Annual Banquet

President Barb, Past President Connie,
PVP Kolann, Co-Treasurer Kathie

Mary O'Brien, Secretary

Aspire to Inspire

Did you know that Mary lived and worked as an elementary teacher in Little Rock, AR and St Louis, MO? She is a super-talented lady!

Tell about your favorite Women of Today Project. Mary picked St Timothy's Preschool Snack Project, which she proposed and led for us. We provided prepackaged individual snacks for preschoolers throughout the school year under Covid protocols and many members donated to this. On a daily basis, Mary got to see the difference that our generous contributions made for those 3 to 5 year olds. Snacks each morning and afternoon helped out during a difficult financial year for many families.

What is one of your best memories in Women of Today? The Black Sheep Mystery Tour! It was so fun to figure out the clues where our group was staying. The opportunity to get to know other members better and do fun activities together was very enjoyable!

Michelle Kocak Jones, State Delegate
MinneSEWta Nice

Michelle originally joined our chapter in 1997. [She took a hiatus for a few years and we are so glad she is back with us again.] She has held all board positions, some more than once, including State Delegate.

Tell about your favorite Women of Today project. Parent Night Out was always near and dear to her as it was a project she started for parents of children with disabilities to get a night away. It included dinner, movie, and cost of a caregiver for the family, which was budgeted and paid by Women of Today for quite a few years. Names were submitted from parents in the Monticello School District and we drew a lucky winner 4 times during the school year. The families were notified by phone and the joy in the parents' voices is what she will always remember. Comments such as "you don't know how much we needed this break", "thank you so much for your kindness", "this means more than you know", and more. This made it SO very worthwhile.

Why would you recommend Women of Today to someone who is not a member? The friendships developed with others who have the same interest in volunteering is invaluable. This diverse group of women comes together, who may not have met without the Women of Today organization. It is a wonderful network and a place to gain lifelong friendships.



Monticello Riverfest Parade 2022
"Red, White & Blue"

President Barb & Debby
PVP Kolann (behind)

Kathie Bushman, Co-Treasurer
Knot Free Finances

Here's something unique about Kathie: she has held over 50 jobs in her life time so far! She likes doing and learning new things (and she certainly has done that).

What is one of your best memories with Women of Today and why? Kathie's best memory is from a few years back when she went on the women's retreat (aka Black Sheep Mystery Tour). She didn't know most members very well but it was a great way to get to know them. The members were and are very good about making others feel welcome. She is looking forward to the retreat this year. [That Girls Getaway weekend was held in October and was very special.]

Why and how would you recommend Women of Today to someone that is not a member? Joining the Women of Today is a great way to make new friends in the community, to give back by volunteering, and to help you step out of your comfort zone and grow. It also gives you the opportunity to participate in many social events.

Connie Fink, Past President/Parliamentarian
Radiate Positive Vibes

Connie served as our chapter president last year with the theme "Friendship Multiplied Through Fellowship" and her bunny logo appeared often during the year. We are happy to welcome Connie to our Past President's Club.

What convinced you to join Monticello Women of Today? Connie had just returned to working the day shift and met one of her neighbors. They were talking and she mentioned that she missed volunteering and felt disconnected from the community. Her neighbor told her about Women of Today. Connie came to a meeting and knew that was what she wanted to get reconnected, volunteer, and meet wonderful people!

Why and how would you recommend Women of Today to someone that is not a member? Connie would tell them that if you want to volunteer and meet people, Women of Today is a great way to do those things. It is a great way to feel connected with the community!

Sarah Sundine, Co-Membership Vice President
Together we can DO it

Sarah has lived in Monticello for 14 years and been a member of our chapter for twelve of those years. They have two teenage boys. Jakob is learning to drive and Matteus keeps them busy with soccer. They love to travel as a family and are trying to get to all 50 states with the boys. So far they are at 24, adding Tennessee and Kentucky over MEA break a few weeks ago.

What convinced you to join Monticello Women of Today?

The Sundines had just moved to the area and Sarah was looking for others to connect with. She went to an M-event at Chatter's to play Bingo at the end of September. Then went to the general meeting the following week and joined. While at the meeting, she signed up for the Black Sheep Mystery Tour coming up a couple weeks later. She went home and told her husband Erik about all the things going on. He repeated back to her: you just met these people, you signed up to go out of town with them for a weekend, and you don't even know where you are going! Yep, and the rest is history. Sarah has loved and trusted this group from the very first time she met them.

Tell about your favorite Women of Today project. Sarah says there are so many, it is hard to pick one so she is sharing a couple. Mystery Tour has always held a special place for her, since that is how she quickly got involved with the group. It was a great way to connect with members and have a good weekend. For service projects, Sarah really enjoyed Bundles of Love. We found a good way during the pandemic to provide service and help others while we stayed home. A pandemic won't slow this group down from helping others!

Kolann Wilhelm, Programming Vice President
(UNTIE)
Uncover New Talents Inside You Everyday

Kolann loves vacations and has taken quite a few over the years. Some of her most fun memories from these trips are: going up Pike's Peak, water rafting, parasailing, getting to hold a baby tiger in Mexico, her grandma taking her to Disney World, and going back to Disney with her school choir.

What is one of your best memories with Women of Today and why? Handing out May Day baskets for Crescent Cove with Connie because we got to go on a road trip and surprise some of the CC families with these wonderful and fun baskets that we had put together in our chapter to give to them.

What do you like about chapter meetings and/or what would you change? Kolann really enjoys going to the chapter meetings and seeing everyone. It's something to look forward to and she likes to keep up with what the chapter is doing.



Riverfest 2022 Talent Show

Members and family that worked
"behind the scenes"

Rose, Cindy, Kay, Izzy & friend, Kolann, Sharon & granddaughter, Melanie & Monique
(seated) Rhonda, Cat, Arlis



Some of the helpers for the 2022 Monticello High School grad party held at Monticello Community Center

Nancy, Cat, Leo & Kay, Annette, Arlis
(seated) Pam P, Karla, Krisie



Mercedes Turner, Co-Membership Vice President
Together we can DO it

Mercedes (aka Mercy) has been a much-loved member of our chapter since March 2013. We are grateful to her for sharing her knowledge and wisdom. She offers great ideas and shared a lot of good information for this article.

What convinced you to join Monticello Women of Today? Mercy felt very welcomed when she came to her first meeting. She was looking for a place to meet other women in the community who like to volunteer and give back and also to expand her circle of friends.

What do you find most interesting about the officer position you hold? Meeting new and prospective members and getting to share the great things we do as a chapter for our community. She loves the passion our members have about the organization.

Tell about your favorite Women of Today project. We have done so many amazing projects through the years, she could not narrow it down to one. She particularly likes projects where we are able to connect with each other and also make an impact that helps others.

What is one of your best memories with Women of Today? Laughter—whether it is at a volunteer event, m-event, social, or weekend trip—there is always so much laughter and great conversation. We have such interesting and diverse members so it is great to get to know more about each other.

Why would you recommend Women of Today to someone that is not a member? Opportunity to give back to the community, make new friends, learn about a wonderful organization with a wonderful history of giving back to others. You participate as much as you can and also focus on your own development.

Describe a practice/tradition in our chapter that you would change and/or keep the same and why. Mercy would like to bring back a form of the Big Sis program and look at it more for mentoring where members can sign up to be a mentor/mentee in areas of interest.

If you could start a new project/event or bring back an old one, describe what that would be. She would like to explore projects in the community with other organizations that need support and partnership (ex. Meals on Wheels, Senior Center, youth program, food share program).

What do you like about board meetings and/or what would you change? Mercy likes the topic ideas discussed at board meetings. She thinks members interested in new ideas/business should come to the first board meeting of each trimester.

What do you like about chapter meetings and/or what would you change? There is a lot of good information at the chapter meetings. Sometimes there is too much on the agenda and it feels rushed at the end.

President Barb: What are our meetings full of?

Co-MVP Sarah: What convinced her to join our chapter?

Secretary Mary: What is her favorite project?

Co-MVP Mercedes: If she could start a new project, what would she explore?

SD Michelle: Which project did she find to be so very worthwhile?

PP/P Connie: If she was recommending Women of Today to someone, what would she tell them?

Co-Treasurer Kathie: What is one favorite memory with Women of Today?

PVP Kolann: What does she like about our Women of Today chapter meetings?

Girls Getaway Weekend—October 2022

