



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

What have you done for me lately?

Recently I heard through the grapevine that a member feels the National Executive Board doesn't do much for T.T.T. We found this disheartening, because, as a board, we spend countless hours to move T.T.T. forward with a solid financial base – all as a 100% volunteer board. Perhaps there is something in particular we could do that might help our chapters more. We want to hear from you if you have suggestions or concerns.



Members of the National Executive Board and Project Board met at DMS offices in West Des Moines in October.

In honor of our one-year anniversary, the 2023-2025 National Executive Board would like to share some highlights of the accomplishments from our first year:

- Sent out six issues of *Tidings* – five emailed versions and one print version. Did you know only 55% of our membership opens the *Tidings* emails? As you are reading this, if you feel you've learned something new, please share this issue with your chapter!
- Sent out six *Focus on...* emails. These emails come out in non-*Tidings* months focusing on one pillar of our Strategic Plan (Chapter Support, Membership Growth & Engagement and Marketing).
- Hosted *Let's Connect* Zoom meetings: multiple calls about the proposed DBA (doing business as) name with full membership and various leader groups; a personal look at Mary Swaney Stuntz from her "adopted" daughter; help for treasurers with R&Ds, and learning how to submit grants to Walmart for chapter funds.
- Presented at State Conventions
- Sought member input on the DBA via a survey, multiple Zoom meetings and in person at State Conventions.
- Hired a new marketing firm to help us make a final DBA determination and launch a marketing campaign.
- Hired a grant writer (using funds from anonymous donors) to write grants to support the Project Fund. (Note: Hiring a firm takes a lot of time – research to find appropriate candidates, multiple interviews then contract negotiations).
- Created a new mission statement that follows appropriate standards for a mission statement.
- Created a camper survey to help with data that will show the positive outcomes of T.T.T. camp.
- Created a new welcome kit to be sent to new members with a welcome from the National Executive Board along with some T.T.T. swag.
- Updated R&Ds to be less-time consuming for treasurers.

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- Work by the Ambassador Committee, led by two board members, on a “playbook” for chapters with information requested by chapter presidents.

The Project Board, the heart and soul of the mission of our Society, also has a highlight reel for their first year as the 2023-2025 Project Board:

- Negotiated with camps to lower camp fees for T.T.T.
- Facilitated sending 244 girls to overnight camp
- Arranged transportation to/from camp when needed
- Assisted with check-in and check-out at certain camps
- Managed concerns with camps and chapters about camper/camping issues
- Developed a new process for managing specific camper health issues
- Organized, ordered and distributed camper T-shirts
- Distributed Camp Surveys to camp chairmen
- Demonstrated patience and flexibility
- Streamlined collecting chapter camper data

We are proud of what we do for T.T.T., but are always willing to listen to new ideas and constructive criticism. As the nominating committee searches for candidates for the 2025-2027 boards, please consider throwing your hat in the ring if you would like more of a say in what is happening at the national level.

A little change can make a brighter future

Julie Baker, National T.T.T. President, 2023-2025

FUNDRAISING

Inside scoop on getting a Walmart grant

Requesting a grant from your local Walmart can be pretty simple. On Oct. 29, Bryan Partee, our grant writer from Nonprofit Marketplace, hosted a Let’s Connect call to walk members through the new process of obtaining grants through Walmart. The average grant of up to \$2,000 may be used by chapters for camp fees, camp clothes and supplies, camper follow-up and more.



A recording of the call, along with supporting documents, can be found on the main page of the **Member section of the website**. Start working on the process now for your 2025 campers!

PROJECT

Survey says: Campers love the experience!

A survey was compiled and distributed recently by the National Executive and Project Boards to collect feedback about the experiences girls had at T.T.T. camp this year. This information is great for us to hear, but also will be instrumental for grant requests and marketing.

The survey was sent to each camp chairman to send to their camper parents/guardians. To date, 29 campers returned the survey. The respondents are a diverse group: 62% are white, 24% Latino, 7% Black and 7% mixed race. They came from various states too – 59% from Iowa, 24% from Arizona, 10% from Ohio and 7% from Illinois.

The results support our belief that T.T.T. camp makes a meaningful impact in several areas of personal growth. Here’s a breakdown of what the survey numbers suggest:

- **Confidence boost:** With 59% feeling more confident and 34% specifically noting a gain in confidence and leadership, T.T.T. camp seems to be a strong catalyst for self-assurance.
- **Social skills:** 28% said they feel better about making new friends, showing that camp helps kids connect with others.



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- **Experiences:** 41% reported being more confident to try new things, while 21% said they are more open to exploring. These are great indicators of developing curiosity and adaptability.
- **Responsibility and problem-solving:** With 28% feeling more responsible and 41% identifying as better problem-solvers, camp is fostering valuable skills that they'll carry forward.
- **Nature appreciation:** 17% now enjoy being in nature more, which might show that, for some campers, a deeper connection to the outdoors is forming.

The T.T.T. camp experience is already creating positive shifts in young people's lives! We hope to gather more responses to bolster these numbers.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Holidays provide the perfect backdrop for connecting with campers

As the holidays approach, they provide us a terrific opportunity to continue to show how much we care about our camp girls! Whether your chapter already has a robust camper follow-up agenda or not, there are lots of great ways to show your campers that you care in this season of giving. Here are some ideas:

- Invite your campers to a cookie bake. Make sweet treats together and send them home with the goodies.
- Take your girls to a holiday play or performance in your community.
- Share a meal out to share some quality time.
- Host a pajama party (with or without a sleepover).
- Make holiday decorations together.
- Drop off a gift card or food basket to help with holiday groceries.
- Go caroling together in a local nursing home.
- Shop with the campers for items needed by a local shelter or ministry.
- Make fleece tie-blankets together.



Camper shirts will again be paid for by the Project Fund. (Iowa AJ photo)

As you do fun things with and for your campers this holiday season, please post pictures on our T.T.T. Facebook page. We'd love to see what you come up with, and honestly, what is more fun than seeing camp girls having fun with women who care about them?

In other news, at our Project Board/National Executive Board meeting in October, it was decided that the Project Fund would go back to paying for T.T.T. camper T-shirts for all camp girls. So, that means no more bills for camper shirts, and every girl who has been touched by T.T.T. will have a T-shirt to remind her that she's part of something bigger. That's our holiday gift to you!

Thank you so much for all you do!

Kim Langley, Project Administrator

NATIONAL OFFICE

DMS is moving – T.T.T. office address changes Dec. 18

The address used for all mailed T.T.T. correspondence will be changing as of Dec. 18, 2024. The new address will be:

National T.T.T. Society
1415 28th Street, Suite 400
West Des Moines, IA 50266

There will be no changes to the services we receive from DMS; they are just moving to a new location. Phone numbers and emails will remain the same as well.

If you have T.T.T. brochures and would like the National Office address updated on them, you can contact Jenna at 319-385-7246 or office@nationaltttsociety.org and she will send stickers with the updated address.

Please update any chapter and/or personal records with this new address.



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AMBASSADOR'S CORNER

Playbook being designed to help chapters

The T.T.T. Ambassadors have been busy creating a chapter playbook to make some of the operating processes of T.T.T. easier to navigate. Our intention is to provide job descriptions, transfer opportunities from office to office and general ways to communicate.

The playbook will include suggestions for post-camp follow-up with campers, fundraising ideas and ways to make your T.T.T. chapter more visible in your community.

Our intention is not to give you rules to follow, but to provide an interactive forum for chapters and board members to network with each other. This will be a document that will change as we find out more about you. We want to find out what works for other chapters and then communicate those tips with each other.

We want our members to feel visible within the T.T.T. community with people to call on if and when support is needed.

In the age of social media, we want an interactive process that will keep us in touch with one another and take advantage of being socially connected with chapters large and small.

T.T.T. has such a worthy mission of sending girls to camp and encouraging the campers to have new experiences like riding horses, canoeing, making new friends, nighttime campfires, and having a shared experience with their peers.

Our Mission Statement: Ambassadors, with the support of the National Executive Board, support chapters in their efforts to increase community visibility, chapter growth and embrace change.

Joan Greenlee, joangreenlee1@msn.com
Cathi Hollis, cathihollis1120@centurylink.net

SPECIAL THANKS The two camper photos in this issue came from chapters that answered our request for photos to be used in marketing efforts. Send hi-res photos of your campers to tttphotographs@gmail.com. If taken on your phone, be sure to select "actual size" or "high" as the quality to send. Also confirm that you have signed photo release forms from all of your campers. If not, please do not send the photos.



NATIONAL

Resume of minutes for National Executive Board meeting

Diversified Management Services, T.T.T.'s management company in West Des Moines, IA, graciously hosted the fall T.T.T. board meetings. All members of the National Executive Board (NEB) were present.

The Treasurer's Report showed the following balances as of Sept. 30, 2024:

- Two Rivers Bank Checking/Project Fund - \$162,315.06
- Camp Investment Fund - \$921,881.84
- Kay Eng Fund - \$57,646.24

Although our projected cashflow is within budget, our decreasing membership is a concern in terms of decreased dues income in the new year.

The Finance Committee met with Jon Reade from Carson Wealth. Our Camp Investment Fund and Kay Eng Fund are invested in 60% stocks, 40% bonds. Jon feels our finances look good with no red flags for any needed changes.

A motion was made to transfer \$1,538.55 from the Kay Eng Fund to the Project Fund. This amount represents the cost of camp fees for three campers. One chapter requested a \$300 campership from the Kay Eng Fund. It was reiterated that the Kay Eng Fund is now the fund that is used for all camperships as well as any special needs.

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The NEB approved an amendment from the Endowment Fund that updates their annual financial review to match that of the national organization.

The 2024-2025 R&D is being updated to ask chapter treasurers to include their camper follow-up activities. These will become available to other chapters who are looking for ideas.

A motion was approved to no longer charge chapters for the cost of camper T-shirts. The NEB wants all campers to have this shirt regardless of the chapter's ability to pay.

Our new marketing firm, RBI Marketing joined us for 90 minutes. They wanted to get a better feel for who we are as an organization. They promised a timeline of work for their upcoming work, which includes helping with our DBA and associated tagline.

T.T.T. currently has 92 chapters, 1,627 active members, nine associate members, 183 sustaining members, 43 non-resident members, nine honorary members receiving *Tidings* and 71 honorary members not receiving *Tidings*. This is a total of 1,942 members. We have had 95 new members join, 235 discontinued membership and 39 members are deceased. This is a net loss of 179 members. T.T.T. has lost 1,500 members and 57 chapters since 2015.

Chapters regrettably disbanded by president Julie Baker include Iowa DR – Des Moines and Arkansas A – Ozark.

Let's Connect dates for 2025 will be April 29, July 29 and Sept. 30. Possible presentations of upcoming calls include R&D help, marketing update, camper follow-up and/or membership.

Bryan Partee, grant writer from Nonprofit Marketplace, continues to solicit grants for the Project Fund. He is running into issues with foundations not wanting to grant nationally. Bryan will start to look for more local grants. The Partnership Committee continues to help and solicit grants.

On Friday, the Project Board joined the NEB.

Decision was made to send emails to outgoing chapter officers thanking them for their service and to incoming chapter officers with thanks and resources for their positions.

The recent camper survey results were reviewed. Both boards were encouraged with how T.T.T. camp is making a difference for many girls. Discussion involved sending a parent survey next year.

Discussion of the 2025 National Convention at the Embassy Suites Chicago Lombard Oakbrook occurred. Amy Westercamp from DMS will be our support person for the convention.

FUNDRAISING

Funding is out there: An optimistic approach to grant writing

The Partnership team of T.T.T. has shifted its focus from developing sponsors to engaging in partnerships for grant funding with foundations and corporations across the country.

With the help of a professional fundraiser, Bryan Partee, we are able to expand our reach to find funding opportunities for our Project. Since beginning our relationship with Bryan in the summer, more than a dozen new grant requests have been written. Some requests have been denied, others have not announced their awards yet.

Thousands of foundation and corporate grants are made available to nonprofits each year. Each grant has its own restrictions, eligibility requirements, deadlines and intentions for the use of the funds. Our job as a team is to find those funders who are interested in funding our camping and mentoring project.

A common restriction for grant funding is geography. Often grant funding is restricted to states and even counties. Our eligibility for these grants depends on having chapters and campers in these regions. Because of this, grant writing is regional and we may need to include the names and contact information for local chapters to meet the grant requirements. Chapters will be contacted before any information is used on a grant application.

Time and determination are key factors in grant funding success. Members of the Partnership Team are committed to the work and welcome others to join. Contact Joyce Rudowski (rudowski@mac.com) to join the team.

REVISIONS

Bylaw proposals due by Dec. 1

Do you or anyone in your chapter have a suggestion for a change to T.T.T.'s National Bylaws?

Here is the correct process to propose your change:

- Identify the specific Article and Section and write the current wording of the bylaw.
- Write your proposed version of the bylaw. This will be the exact wording the convention body will vote on.
- Include the rationale for why this change is being proposed.
- Identify who is proposing the change, i.e. specific member, group of members, chapter, etc.

All proposed bylaw revisions must be submitted by Dec. 1, 2024, to: Karen Hayes, National Bylaws Revisions Chair, ldhayes61@gmail.com.

Please note that any proposed bylaw revisions not submitted by Dec. 1, 2024, if presented at the 2025 National Convention, must pass unanimously.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations due Dec. 1 for National Boards

Your talents and enthusiasm can help T.T.T. continue to make a real difference in the lives of girls when you serve on either the National Executive Board or the National Project Board.

Please fill out the nomination form at the end of this issue if you have a candidate in mind or if you, yourself, would like to be considered by the National Nominating Committee.

Forms must be received by Dec. 1, 2024.


Find
nomination form
on page 9

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Chicago, it's my kinda town!

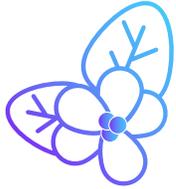
Save these dates for the 2025 National Convention: Oct. 23-25, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago, in Lombard, IL (a Chicago suburb).



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN AHEAD! The booking link is ready to reserve your sleeping rooms for the 2025 National T.T.T. Convention! bit.ly/25TTTconvention



Catch and post the latest T.T.T. news from chapters across the country at facebook.com/groups/campingforgirls/



Violet Awards

Chapters donating \$600 or more since October 2023

Arizona J	Iowa L	Iowa AT	Iowa DU	Iowa FM	Iowa GX
Arizona P	Iowa M	Iowa BD	Iowa DY	Iowa FR	Iowa KEN
Arizona Q	Iowa R	Iowa BI	Iowa EG	Iowa FT	Nebraska A
California M	Iowa T	Iowa BP	Iowa EL	Iowa FX	Ohio F
Illinois AI	Iowa U	Iowa BX	Iowa ES	Iowa GD	Ohio N
Illinois U	Iowa ACCG	Iowa CD	Iowa ET	Iowa GE	Ohio U
Iowa A	Iowa AE	Iowa CK	Iowa EU	Iowa GF	Ohio Z
Iowa D	Iowa AF	Iowa DD	Iowa EW	Iowa GH	
Iowa E	Iowa AJ	Iowa DI	Iowa EX	Iowa GL	
	Iowa AO	Iowa DK	Iowa FG	Iowa GR	
	Iowa APBN	Iowa DR	Iowa FL	Iowa GV	

Still growing

Chapters donating \$300–599 since October 2023

Illinois AQ Iowa AB Iowa BA Iowa J

Since Oct. 1, 2023, 76 state, council and local chapters have donated \$115,137.40 to the Project Fund. Thank you!

T.T.T. Love Gifts

(Received between Aug. 23 and Sept. 30, 2024)

PROJECT FUND – GIFTS

Arizona P, Iowa APBN, Iowa AE, Iowa AO, Iowa EX, Iowa GE, Iowa GL, Ohio N, Ohio U, Ohio Z, Joan Bevis, Sarah Howdeshelt (Ohio F)

ENDOWMENT FUND – GIFTS

Sarah Howdeshelt (Ohio F)

PROJECT FUND – MEMORIALS

Donor – In Memory of
 Illinois AF, Julie Baker – Ales Biernat, mother of Cheryl Biernat-Weinert (Illinois AF)
 Illinois U – Dixie Lindsey (Illinois AZ)
 Iowa R – Dee Gentzler (Iowa R)
 Iowa AR – Janis Fuhrmeister (Iowa AR)
 Iowa GD – Elaine Woodrum (Iowa GD)

INCREASE VISIBILITY OF OUR PASSION AND PURPOSE

Chapter Support

Membership Growth and Engagement

Marketing

National T.T.T. Society
Camping for Girls

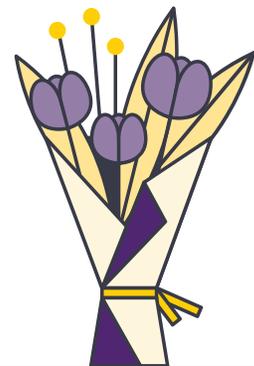
OUR STRATEGIC VISION

Welcome new members!

This section celebrates the chapters and the women they have initiated. These new members have been reported to the National Office between Aug. 16 and Oct. 15, 2024.

Iowa DY – Erica Krohn
Iowa DU – Teresa Kraft
Iowa DU – Pam Jenkins
Iowa FX – Jennifer Hildreth

Iowa FX – Ann Holub
Iowa EG – Nikki Wilson
Iowa Q – Autumn Pulis



In memory of T.T.T. Sisters

These have been reported to the National Office between Aug. 16 and Oct. 15, 2024.

Dorothy Bailey, Iowa T Letts, 05/13/2024

FUNDRAISING

Use Goodshop and Goodsearch to benefit T.T.T. effortlessly

Online shoppers and web browsers can now support T.T.T. while shopping and browsing! Simply create an account at [goodshop.com](https://www.goodshop.com). Then, choose “National T.T.T. Society” as your cause.

SHOPPERS: Log into your Goodshop account. You will see links to tons of stores with their charitable offers. Once you click on a link, you often get valuable coupon codes. Look for the orange heart icon for special discounts just for Goodsearch users.

SEARCHERS: Log into your Goodshop account. Click on “Goodsearch” on the top menu bar. T.T.T. earns one cent for each search. That may not sound like much, but every penny counts!



Follow National T.T.T. Society on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

*Look for your next
Tidings in January!*



Please be sure to share this issue with any of your T.T.T. sisters who do not have online access.



Camping for Girls

Mev Wilson, Editor

Submit news to the National Office at office@nationaltttsociety.org or post on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/campingforgirls](https://www.facebook.com/groups/campingforgirls).

National Officer Nomination Form

Are you ready to step up and make a bigger difference in T.T.T.? The National Nominating Committee is looking for members who are passionate about our Project to serve on the National Executive Board or Project Board. A candidate for either board must have served as an officer of her local chapter, state chapter or area council. For the Project Board, we are looking for members who have also actively participated in the camping program at any level.

Is that you or someone you know? If so, please fill out the Nomination Form and send it to Barb Brown.

Nominations are due by Dec. 1, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION – for a candidate proposed for the National Executive Board or the National Project Board of the National T.T.T. Society.

PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR (check one) Executive Board Project Board

Candidate Name _____

Candidate Address _____

Candidate City, State and Zip _____

Candidate Chapter (State – Letter(s) – Town) _____

Candidate Telephone _____

Candidate E-mail _____

The nominee has consented to have her name presented to the National Nominating Committee.

Endorsed by (individual/chapter) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

RECOMMENDATION Please tell us what talents you or the person you are recommending will bring to the Executive or Project Board. A second sheet may be attached.

Recommendations must be received by Dec. 1, 2024.

Send to: Barb Brown, 1876 Oasis Ave., Mt. Union, Iowa 52644 or by email to randyandbarb1979@gmail.com