



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

APRIL 2020

PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

First and foremost, I miss all of you and will miss our April meeting. Perhaps we will miss the rest of our meetings during my term, and that is kinda, sorta, sad! So many good things happen in April, May, and June. Maybe by the end of May things will change. Wishful thinking—perhaps. Due to the pandemic, we must follow the safeguards set forth by Ohio. We need to stay safe and stay well!

The Board and I will be communicating, and I will be reaching out to all of you via email and snail mail with Mary. We will still have our approval for officer candidates in April. I will ask that you respond by email or phone to get your vote and subsequently report via email and snail mail to Mary the results. Any other business that the Board feels needs to be reported will be done by email.

You may have been getting email with some funny things to bring a smile or outright out loud laugh. I have had several, and I will end my message with a few laughs (hopefully). Know that I am thinking of all of you and praying that no one I know personally is stricken this terrible virus. Be safe, stay well, and stay positive.

President Marti

~What if they close the grocery stores? We'll have to hunt for our food. I don't even know where Doritos live!

~My wife is singing in the house. I'm sitting outside so the neighbors don't think I'm hurting her.

~To those who have bought 17 bottles of soap leaving none on the shop shelves for others, you do realize that to stop getting coronavirus, you need other people to wash their hands too!



SPRING CONFERENCE

Because of the coronavirus, Spring Conference 2020 has been cancelled. Information will be shared when it becomes available as well as information about the installation of the new Midwestern Region Governor and board.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Our club can earn money when we shop at Kroger. If you have a Kroger account, log in at <http://www.kroger.com> and search for Soroptimist International of Middletown or enter LD932 and click enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid e-mail address, and a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, you may get one at a Kroger customer service desk. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

If you have not already designated a non-profit to receive your points, please consider listing Soroptimist International of Middletown. You do not need to be a club member to donate your points, so ask your family members and friends if they will choose our club as their beneficiary. Your choice will print at the bottom of your receipt

Thanks!
Sue

AWARD WINNERS

Our Live Your Dream Award winner is Kayla Freeman. She is from Middletown, is a survivor of domestic violence, and is a single mother of one. She attends Sinclair Community College and is majoring in psychology. Her goal is to work with those who have been abused and to make others aware of domestic abuse.

Our Virginia Wagner Award winner is Mikayla Alcorn. She lives in Oxford and attends Miami University. She works at Kroger and totally supports herself. She is an accounting major. Her goal is to work her way up to a senior accountant position within a moderate to large company after earning her bachelor's degree.

Our Miami University Regionals scholarship winner is Kate Leigh Broderick. She will be awarded \$1500. She is studying to become a lawyer. She works 10-15 hours a week cleaning homes and landscaping.

Ellie Louise Earls is a close runner-up. She will receive \$1000 and is studying to be a social worker. She works at Miami Regionals for the Center of School Impact and also in the Recreation Center.

Congratulations to all our winners! They will receive their checks and certificates in the mail.

DREAM IT BE IT

There is conversation going about next year. We will need to revisit in the fall. The idea is to do an afterschool program if bus service can be arranged through the elementary school.

What would have to happen is that there would be seating availability on the elementary buses for the junior high girls to ride home.

Gayle

HOPE HOUSE BASKETS

I have arranged to deliver 8 Going Home Bathroom Baskets to Hanna Hamblin at Hope House the first week of April. These eight baskets are for April and May. That leaves only 12 baskets remaining for June, July, and August. That makes a total of 48 baskets for the year. I have everything for those final 12 baskets except 11 mops.

I do hope we will continue this project in 2020-21 and if approved in our next year's Middletown Soroptimist budget. I have left a message for Tammi Ector, Director of the Hope House Center for Woman and Children to determine if she wants to continue this project or if she has ideas about an alternate project that she feels would better serve the women and children at the Center. If we approve the budget to continue and Tammi approves the project, I volunteer to continue to purchase, prepare, and deliver the baskets for the next year.

Ann

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Here is the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. The slate will be voted on in May, and officers will be installed in June.

President—Gayle Martz

Vice-President—Sue Willis

Treasurer—Ann Munafo

Recording Secretary—Jo Ashworth

Corresponding Secretary—Beth Miller

2-year Board Member—Marti Kelley

1-year Board Member—Elaine Garver

APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

2015 Magda Rinder

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6 Magda

CALENDAR

April 1—April Fool's Day

April 12—Easter

April 15—tax deadline—extended to
July 15

July 22-25—SIA Convention in
Bellevue, WA to kick off our 100th
anniversary. Still being evaluated
to decide if it will be postponed or
cancelled due to coronavirus.

October 23-24—District Meeting in
Canton, OH at the Holiday Inn.

A TRIP TO MOTEL X

As Ann, Barb, Beth and I entered the motel room exhibit, we were immediately surrounded by the menacing atmosphere created by low red and black lights and graffiti on the wall.

First, we saw a closet with a few suggestive outfits hanging and a floor filled with dirty looking shoes, tees, jeans and papers.

The central focus of the room is the bed. It has the words, "The trafficker makes the victim fall in love with him" embroidered on the pretty coverlet. Under the quilt, the ways this is done are described on more words embroidered on material.

All four of us smiled for a picture as we entered the display, but any pleasant feelings were quickly replaced by mesmerizing sadness as we watched a ballet playing on the TV. It is a violent, disparate dance of the attraction between a man and a woman that captures the power vs. powerlessness in this type of hateful relationship. In this room, there is also a nightstand with drawers that light up with red light when opened. One held notes from victims to read; another items labeled with things taken from victims like innocence and hope.

The bathroom holds a medicine cabinet with the most common types of work for labor trafficking victims written on pill and mouthwash bottles - domestic,

construction, etc. The bathtub contained a life sized wire sculpture of a young lady chained in place. A cleaning cart had its bottles labelled with ways to identify trafficked victims.

The rest of the Underground Freedom Center is devoted to all types of slavery and human bondage both present and past. We learned so much as we toured and talked. It renewed our commitment to do what we can to stop human trafficking.

Jennie

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 1-3, 2021 in San Francisco, CA.

Join Soroptimists from all four Federations as we celebrate our *Bright Past* and look forward to our *Brilliant Future*. The Fairmont San Francisco Hotel is special because of its historic significance. It marks the site of the very first worldwide Soroptimist convention in 1922. Because of its significance in our history, it was chosen as the perfect location for this event. The dates in October are significant because they are close to the date of our founding.

A website page is available at <https://www.sotoptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/100-anniversary.html> There will also be a Facebook group formed soon.

PINS

Have you ordered your new pin yet? Maybe we can all combine our orders into one order. The cost of the S pins is \$15.

UPLIFTING THOUGHTS

Marti asked us to share some uplifting thoughts to help take our minds off the pandemic news. Here are a few that were shared:

Ginger had volunteered to give the inspiration at the April meeting. She sent several so I could choose. I couldn't choose, so here goes. Thanks, Ginger.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.

Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your inner voice.

And most important, have the courage to

follow your heart and intuition

-Steve Jobs

Before you speak let your words pass through three gates:

At the first gate, ask yourself, "Is it true?"

At the second gate ask, "Is it necessary?"

At the third gate ask, "Is it kind?"

-Adapted from "Three Gates" by Beth Day

Be More

Plan your life and do what you do best.

You can be absolutely anything you want to be.

You may not want to be a star, but you do want to star in your own dreams.

Dolly Parton

Some things to do to be "with others"

Friday night two friends of mine (one in Massillon and one in Beavercreek) FaceTimed each other on our iPads and then we play Yahtzee - we each had our own dice and scorecards (I scanned a scorecard I had and emailed to them so they would have one). It was fun. I also found an app that will roll dice for you in case you want to play with friends who don't have physical dice.

Yesterday my sister, niece and I were on a phone call together and on our individual iPads we played Phase 10 - an app that my niece shared with us. She also found an UNO app and a Yahtzee app that we are going to try. If anyone wants a link to those apps, text me at 513.325.7666 and I'll send the info to you.

If anyone else has a game or challenge to share, please do so.

Betty

On a personal note, I have been using face time to stay in touch with two of my cousins in Belgium (one on my mom's side and one on my dad's side of the family). They are pretty much in the same boat as we are, isolate, isolate, isolate. So it is fun to talk and see each other and reminisce about happy or funny memories and spend some time laughing together!

p.s. When the weather is nice, Kenny and I go for a walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the sun and spring flowers!

Ingrid

It is not boring at all to stay in the house. But how come one bag of rice has 7456 pieces and the other bag 7,398?

CONTACT US

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