



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

MAY 2020

PRESIDENT MARTI'S MESSAGE

Greetings to everyone! I have not had any bad news about any of you and your health, so I am very happy about that!! Please, let's keep it that way!!

How things have changed this year! However, change is a way of life. Some changes are less destructive and frightening, but nonetheless, change is always with us.

It is needless to say that it is difficult to plan ahead with all of the uncertainties; however, that is what we are faced with for our organization. The Board has been working on our budget proposal for the ensuing term, and it has not been easy. As Ingrid said in a note I received from her, her crystal ball broke years ago, and so have all of ours!

So without our Soroptimist Crystal Ball, we are facing changes for our club this coming year. We need every one of our members to help us get through the year with the plans that are forthcoming. After we have a clearer picture of how our lives are going to function after this pandemic is contained, we will all need to be flexible and change what needs to be changed in order to continue to meet our mission goals.

While we have a substantial bank balance, we need to continue to get our message out through our fundraising. We have a challenge before us to maintain our income to cover our scholarship and awards through fundraising. We were hoping to do more inventive membership activities this coming year, and that is subject to whether we will be able to meet in larger groups. So my message to all of you is to stay well, stay committed to our Soroptimist mission, and meet the challenges ahead of us, as our routines will no doubt have to change. We can do it!

Hugs to all of you! (Boy! Do I miss getting a hug!)

President Marti



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following slate of officers is presented by the nominating committee. Because of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the slate will be voted on either by e-mail or during a Zoom meeting, and officers will be installed in June if we are permitted to meet then.

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

INSPIRATION

Elaine was scheduled to have the inspiration at the May meeting. She sent the following to share with you.

I have the May inspiration for the newsletter since it looks like we won't be getting together anytime soon. I had the raffle last month and glad to say Dee won. I sent her a gift card. Of course, I received the nicest note from her.

The COVID-19 has impacted all our lives. I've received text messages from friends sharing a blessing or a gratitude for the day. These have helped keep us grounded, alleviate some of our fears and focus on the positive things we have and can do. I'd like to share a couple quotes – one we have all heard and another that was new to me.

"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or kindness I can

show to any human being, let me do it now." Quaker missionary

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less." Marie Curie

Reaching out to others at all times is the nature of our Soroptimist members. I read a quote from a young man but didn't note his name at the time but I thought was good for what we are currently experiencing. "Helping those in need is not charity, it's humanity."

TREASURER INFORMATION

Here is some information Sue shared.

Ohio Nonprofit COVID-19 Survey

The Ohio Attorney General's Office, Philanthropy Ohio, and The Ohio State University are partnering to administer the Ohio Nonprofit COVID-19 Survey intended to understand the greatest needs of Ohio's nonprofit sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the club member registered to file our annual Ohio Charitable Report, the voluntary survey was emailed to my attention.

The data from the short ten minute survey will be used to inform policymakers, funders, media, and other decision makers about how to best support the non-profit sector during this time, as well as for research purposes. They plan to follow up with us in the coming months to ask for updates, so that they can monitor the situation over the long run.

While not all questions and situations applied to our organization, my answers communicated these primary impacts due to social distancing restrictions.

- We will have to significantly modify our fundraising initiatives which may put our revenue results at risk.
- The economic impact of COVID-19 will decrease the pool of public donations to be shared among an increasing number of charitable causes.
- Our ability to grow our membership will be challenged due to meeting size and location limitations, as well economic downturn.

It was encouraging to see the state's focus on the important role of non-profit organizations. Our club's efforts to plan ahead and adopt creative changes to get the job done will help make it a fun and successful year!

American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State Cancelled for 2020

Our club has been notified that the Buckeye Girls State Program scheduled for June 14-20, 2020 on the campus of the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

This national program which is part of the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism program helps mold high school girls to be our country's leaders of tomorrow. Delegates learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than they will

learn in an entire semester of high school. Once again, our club sponsored a delegate for \$275 which includes housing, food and the government activities.

Our local American Legion Auxiliary Unit has asked us to consider allowing them to hold our donation for the 2021 program. We have agreed to do this, and will utilize those funds for 2021 toward one of our other programs.

HOPE HOUSE

Here is some information Ann sent. She received it from Hope House as a thank you to volunteers. April 19-25 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Dear Hope House Mission Volunteers,

Thank you greatly for coming alongside Hope House Mission this year to help break the cycle of poverty and despair. We want to celebrate all you have done to empower residents to take the next steps in restoration. Attached you will find a letter from our Board Chair, on behalf of our Board of Directors to you.

We have also created a small photo slideshow of some of the volunteer activities that have gone on this past year. You can view that by clicking [here](#). We are honored to celebrate each and every one of you that are making a difference in our community by serving others in need. We are encouraged every day by your hearts and generosity.

Thank you!

Hannah Hamlin

Preview YouTube video Hope House Volunteer Appreciation Video 2020



CALENDAR

May 7--??? Virtual board meeting
May 14--??? Virtual meeting
June 11—??? meeting and installation of officers
Oct. 23-24—District Meeting in Canton, OH
April 23-25—Spring Conference in Fond du Lac, WI
2021—100th Soroptimist Anniversary in San Francisco, CA

MAY BIRTHDAY

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CONTACT US

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ZOOM CALL

Barb, Betty, Gayle, and Pam joined a Happy Hour Zoom call with Midwestern Region ladies since we couldn't meet at Spring Conference. It was fun to see familiar faces.

RAFFLE

May—Dee

June--Ann

INSPIRATION

May—Elaine

June--Ann

