



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

FEBRUARY 2021

PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE



Wow! January flew by fast! Here we are in February, heart month. The first Friday each February, American Heart Month, the nation comes together, igniting a wave of red. National Wear Red Day® is Friday, February 5, 2021.

As I sit here thinking about what we are doing going forward I need to share with you the SIA stand on Soroptimist activities which will shape us in the near future:

"Your SIA Board held an emergency board meeting on January 7, 2021, to discuss the ever-changing COVID-19 situation and I felt it was important to provide you with the context and results of this discussion as quickly as possible.

The purpose of the board meeting was to discuss the overall risk associated with face-to-face meetings and other activities throughout the federation during the COVID worldwide pandemic. As part of this meeting we acknowledged that Soroptimists gathering together and interacting is important. As members, the board understands the cost of energy, morale and money that not holding face-to-face

meetings or events is likely to cause. While recognizing all of this, your board also has an obligation to protect our organization from the legal and financial risks of someone becoming infected or becoming a super spreader despite all protocols being followed. That is why after reviewing the situation, our options, the pros and cons and consulting with SIA's General Counsel, the board made the very difficult and necessary decision to immediately place a federation wide temporary pause on all face-to-face meetings and activities authorized or sanctioned by SIA, along with associated travel, until further notice."

Even with this, I remain positive and hopeful. We have the advantage to have speakers as well as fun through our Zoom. January's speaker Ann Babb was wonderful and very informative. Next month we will have Alex Coon, a fellow Soroptimist to get us up to speed on using Slack, the information sharing tool that will become the Midwest Regions main way of communication. See Alex's short bio below:

Alexandra Nicholis Coon, she is a member of Soroptimist International Canton/Stark County and the Akron Chapter DAR, and resides in North Canton with her husband and twin daughters. Her day job is executive director for the Massillon Museum, holds a BA in art history from Kent State University, an MA in art history through

the joint program at the Cleveland Museum of Art and Case Western Reserve University, and a collections care certificate from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. Among her many accomplishments are Twenty Under 40" award, was a 2012 inductee to the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2020 was honored with the DeHoff Emerging Philanthropist Award.

Spring Conference will be 100% Virtual which gives our members (and guests/potential members) an opportunity to see what Soroptimist is about and get update information on fundraising, membership, and communication. Stay tuned for more information.

100 YEARS YOUNG, Soroptimists is celebrating 100 years. How can we celebrate it? A couple ideas are to have a Virtual Tea, or Cocktail Party, advertise it, invite guests, and have fun. We can go through our old pictures and do Throwback Thursday's on Facebook. Get creative and bring it to our next meeting.

We also can celebrate our four winners in our Dream Raffle, Charlene Moss, Angie Markle, Theresa Cory, and Mark Spaulding. We will continue to draw each week!

So until we Zoom, February 11, Stay Safe, well, and warm. Wear red to our meeting to celebrate Valentine's Day!



Gayle



FEBRUARY INSPIRATION & RAFFLE

Ginger

FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Betty--1988

CALENDAR

Feb. 4—7:00 Zoom board meeting

Feb. 11—7:00 Zoom club meeting

March 1—Miami University Regional applications due to club

March 31—Governor's Club Award form due to Gov. Darcy

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Do you know a woman attending a Miami Regional campus who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications our Miami Regional scholarship on our website www.middletownsoroptimist.org. This is an easy way for them to get an application. Every year we struggle to find deserving applicants, so please share this information freely.



Greater Cincinnati's ONLY Furniture Bank

I recently watched a community spot on FOX19 telling the story of New Life Furniture Bank. Their mission immediately caught my attention, as I saw an added opportunity to assist local area women in need and their families and to broaden community awareness of our Soroptimist Club. I set out to learn more about this non-profit organization and to share my findings with all of you.

ALL ABOUT NEW LIFE FURNITURE BANK

New Life Furniture Bank is a faith-based non-profit organization located in Blue Ash, Ohio, serving the Greater Cincinnati area. They collect gently used furniture from people who have extra, inspect and clean it, and deliver the items directly to the homes of families in need. They strive to restore dignity and bring pride of ownership and confidence to those in need so they can be self-sufficient. They make giving easy and fulfilling by picking up, transporting and cleaning your gently used furniture and delivering it to those in need. They are the only nationally registered furniture bank in Southwest Ohio, striving to end the cycle of homelessness.

New Life Furniture Bank was founded in 2006 by Holly Young, Tim Nabors and volunteers from Milford First United Methodist Church in partnership with InterFaith Hospitality Network (IHN) who provides emergency shelter to homeless families.

Holly and Tim volunteered together helping families overcoming homelessness who were staying at their church. During this time, Holly met Teresa who had fled domestic abuse with her three children and just the clothes on their backs. Shortly after Teresa moved into a new house, she shared with Holly that she had pulled 3 twin mattresses out of the dumpster for her children to sleep on. Holly told Teresa that she would help her find clean mattresses for the children and quickly organized a furniture and housewares drive. The church responded with an abundance of furniture and everything she needed to start over.... her house was made into a home! This act of kindness restored Teresa's dignity, relieved the stress of buying furniture, and allowed Teresa to focus on providing for her children. InterFaith Hospitality recognized the need for a furniture bank and began referring more clients to Holly and Tim.

For the first few years, New Life Furniture Bank was a small ministry of Milford First United Methodist Church then in 2009 became a 501(C) 3 Furniture Bank. Now, New Life Furniture Bank partners with over 35 social service agencies and provides furniture and household goods to individuals and families throughout the Greater Cincinnati area moving out of homelessness, fleeing abuse and/or living in extreme poverty. People in need are helped by referral only through one of the over 35 Cincinnati agencies that are trained and approved to submit referrals. The complete list of qualified agencies can be found at www.nlfurniture.org.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Our club members, families and friends can help by hosting a "FILL A TRUCK EVENT". New Life Furniture Bank will provide one of their box trucks for a donation event on the date and at the location of our

choosing. We can promote the event in advance as the host organization and include our club signage/information at the

donation site to network with potential new members.

- Kitchen Furniture
- Bedroom Furniture
- Housewares
- Linens

Acceptable donations include the following items which must be clean and free of pet hair, stains and tears:

- Living Room Furniture

THE COMPELLING BENEFITS

All donations we collect to fill the truck will go directly into the homes of families overcoming homelessness, domestic abuse, extreme poverty or other devastating circumstances. **The second great reason to host a "FILL A TRUCK EVENT" is to successfully de-clutter and downsize the decades of items we have worked so hard to collect! (I may need a truck just for my donations)**

Let's discuss this proposal at our next meeting!

Thanks, Sue

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