



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

JANUARY 2023

PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I hope this finds everyone healthy and happy to start the new year! I have heard such wonderful comments about our Holiday Party! I am so sorry to have missed it. It is always a wonderful time for fellowship! The auction brought in \$795.00 in bids and \$245.00 in donations for a total of \$1040.00 which goes to our operating fund. What a generous spirit of giving!

Our January meeting will be an exciting evening as a Membership Event. A wonderful opportunity to invite exciting ladies, like yourselves, to learn about our club and how we impact the community with our awards and projects. Below is a copy of the email invitation you will receive to invite potential guests. Please think of family, friends, and past members.

JANUARY



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF
MIDDLETOWN

cordially invites you and a guest to our
WINE TASTING MEET AND GREET

Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 6 p.m.

Please join us in bringing in the New Year with our complimentary event presented by:

Charlie DeArmon of Tramente and Sons
at Horsepower Farm
2227 Trinity Dr.
Middletown, Ohio. 45044

*Even if you don't love wine, please join us in friendship to share other goodies and project ideas for helping women and girls "live their dreams".

RSVP to Dee Markle at 513-594-3587 or jdmarkle@cinci.rr.com by Friday, January 6, 2023.

This is a membership event. There will be no cost to our guests. Members will pay for their reservation. I will be sending out in an email a copy of this invitation for you to send to your guests.

HundredX Fundraiser is fast approaching. I will be doing 2 zoom presentations to inform members of what we will be doing. There will be one daytime zoom and one evening please attend one of them. The dates are January 23 and 24. Our fundraiser will begin February 6 and run for 30 days.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Remember Empower, Prevent, and Protect. If you see something, say something.

Update on Marti! Successful aortic valve procedure! Home with no driving for 5 days. Such great news.

See you all real soon!

Hugs,

Gayle

CALENDAR

January 5—7:00 ZOOM board meeting
January 12—6:00

club meeting/membership event.

January 15—Virginia M. Wagner applications due to club

January 23 & 24—ZOOM meetings about HundredX fundraiser

March 1—Miami University applications due to club

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

JANUARY INSPIRATION

Gayle

JANUARY RAFFLE

Gayle

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 6—Betty

JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Dee—1998

Beth—1998

Marti—2017

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

Do you know a woman attending college who could use some extra money for her schooling? Interested women can find writeable applications for the Virginia Wagner Award and our Miami 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.

Virginia Wagner applications are due January 15.

GOING HOME BATHROOM BASKETS

Ann delivered 12 Going Home Bathroom Baskets to the Hope House Center for Women and Children. These should last for one a week until April. Another delivery is scheduled for March.

Thanks, Ann, for all your help with this project!

Middletown Soroptimist International

Hope House Center for Women and Children Service Project

In January 2019, we began providing a "Sweet Dreams of Home Bathroom Basket" with items that women and children leaving the Hope House homeless shelter would need to set up a bathroom in their new home. We started with the goal of 2-3 baskets/month initially and then increased it to 4/month based on the number of women being dismissed from the facility monthly. We purchased, prepared and delivered 48 fully stocked "Sweet Dreams of Home Bathroom Baskets in 2019. During that time the new Director and staff established criteria that the women must meet to qualify and receive the basket. The Director has shared with us that the ladies living there are really excited about being able to work toward this incentive gift. In 2020 and 2021 the numbers dropped to about half with the COVID pandemic and the decline in admissions/discharges from the facility. The numbers have returned with about 4/month being discharged this fall.

We estimate the Sweet Dreams of Home Bathroom Baskets are valued at \$65-75 each. The fully stocked baskets include:

1. Laundry Basket \$4/basket this year
2. Bucket \$1.25 (donated in the past)
3. Small trash can 1.25
4. Mop varies from year to year about \$9
5. Broom \$1.25
6. Dust pan \$1.25
7. Toilet bowl brush \$1.25
8. 2 cleaning cloths bought by the bundle and divided
9. Shower curtain and hooks \$1.25 each
10. 2 new towels/2 hand-towels/4-wash cloths varies from year to year \$10-15/bundle
11. 10-12+ hangers donated by members/purchased some at Walmart 18 pack for \$2.98
12. Liquid hand soap \$1.00
13. Toilet bowl cleaner \$1.25
14. Window cleaner \$1.25
15. General cleaner \$1.25
16. Air Freshener \$.98
17. 8 rolls of toilet paper 2 packs at \$1.25 each
18. 1 roll of paper towels \$1.66 this year for big roll from COSTCO (individually wrapped)
19. Pack of 4 toothbrushes \$1.00
20. Tooth paste \$1.00
21. Pack of 4-6 razors \$1.00
22. Shaving cream \$1.25
23. Pkg of maxi pads \$1-1.25
24. Shampoo \$.88
25. Conditioner \$.88
26. Body Wash \$1.25
27. A bar of soap bought in bundle and divided up-can usually find some on sale
28. From time to time there are other member donated items randomly included in a basket on a limited basis, i.e., hair dryers, scented soaps, shower curtains with matching rings, soap/lotion basket, travel packs, etc.

We use tax exempt status on all purchases except those at COSTCO and Kohls (have not been successful in getting Non-profit status at those two stores. Most \$1.25 items bought from Dollar Tree (can't buy baskets or mops there as they are terrible quality and would fall apart after the first use). Some items are bought at Menards with 11% discounts and tax exempt. Most of the towels are bought at WalMart now when on sale with tax exempt status. (Sometimes I can get the bath towels there for \$3.00 each, hand towels for \$2, and wash cloths for \$1. I usually check whenever I'm in WalMart to see if they have any on sale but sometimes I have to go to several stores to put together the matching/coordinating sets. And they are not always marked down at all stores.)

With the growth of this project we have written and received 2 grants in recent years, have received several private donations, and had a corporate sponsor one year which helped us cover some of our expenses for basket supplies. Please keep this in mind and pass on any possible foundation, donor or sponsor ideas to Sue Willis, Gayle Martz, or Ann Munafo. We have 2-3 members who have grant writing experience and could always use additional financial support which would leave more of our fundraising dollars for our other projects.

CONTACT US

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