



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

FEBRUARY 2023

PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE

February is here and we have so much to celebrate.

A very special thank you to Sue and Rick Willis for hosting our January Wine and Cheese Membership Event. It was a special evening of meeting new friends and learning about them.

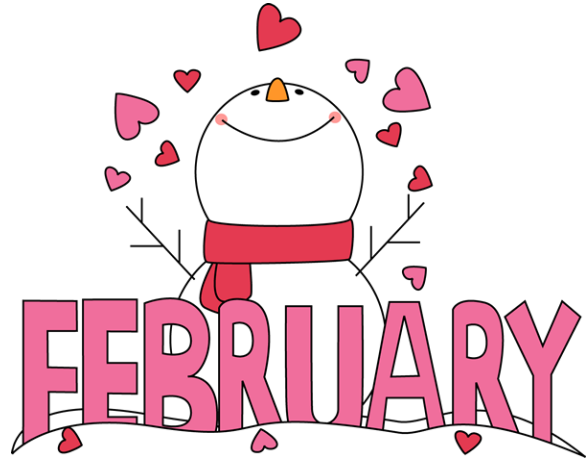
We now move into February and once again have a special couple of events planned. Our February 9 meeting will be at the new Butler Tech building. We will have a special dinner prepared by their culinary students and a presentation and tour. A great opportunity to invite new friends to join us.

We will also kick off our HundredX fundraising. A new and exciting way to raise funds!!!!

We will Zoom Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 to review materials you will use and how to email contacts.

February is American Heart Month and February 3 is National Wear Red Day.

Please become familiar with the signs and symptoms by checking out information at www.goredforwomen.org



February we celebrate Valentine's Day, I wish each and every one a very special day!

There will not be a Board Meeting this month due to our HundredX kick off meeting. Treasurer Reports and any critical information will be emailed out.

SPRING CONFERENCE: Mark your calendar for April 21-23, 2023 for Spring Conference. It will be held at the Kensington Hotel, 3500 Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. SI Monroe Club is working hard along with the Regional Board to have a fun filled time, with amazing workshops and programs for all. We encourage all to attend and if you have never attended one before, then let this be the first for you. It's not too far to travel to. Come and have a great time with everyone!

The Call will be coming out in February.

Gayle

MESSAGE FROM GOV. CHRISTINE

Midwestern Region has reason to celebrate! Of the 29 regions within our federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, our Region was tied for the highest percentage of membership growth with 3.7%, or twenty new members. as of August 31, 2022! To be tied for the highest percentage of growth with the Camino Real Region is a testament to the hard work of our clubs, and the fact that your programs, leadership, and visibility are attracting women to join the cause - great work! A close second was the North Atlantic Region, with 3.4% overall membership growth.

As an incentive to maintain the top position, we want to reward clubs who retain and gain new members between now and Spring Conference. We will have the new numbers for the end of this year's first quarter by then. If we are able to retain top position by then, each club will receive a gift card toward hosting a business meeting at someplace like Panera or Starbucks, or to Target, or to use as a raffle prize to raise funds for their club, or to regift to a speaker, etc. In addition, each club gets entry into a pool to receive one FREE registration to district meeting (\$70 value).

The challenge is, therefore, to retain current members, and to gain at least 1 new member between now and Spring Conference! If each club did that, we'd have an overall gain of 25 new

members between now and April...just imagine the impact that would have, not only on our individual clubs, but on the Midwestern Region as a whole.

Christine Fowler Shearer, Ph.D.
Governor
SI Midwestern Region
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216.408.4124 (call/text)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

National Wear Red Day is supported by the American Heart Association and celebrated in conjunction with national heart health month. It focuses specifically on raising awareness of women's heart disease and stroke risks. Cardiovascular disease causes 1 in 3 deaths in women every year making it the number one health related killer in women. The good news is 87% of all heart issues are believed to be preventable making awareness, education, research, and resources vital to the cause this holiday supports.

On this day every year, supporters wear their favorite red dresses, shoes, tops, and accessories in order to stand together with their affected sisters and encourage others to take preventative actions for the sake of their heart's health.



SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for our Miami Regional Campus Scholarship is March 1. Please help spread the word. Interested women can find writeable applications on our website www.middletownsoroptimist.org

FEBRUARY INSPIRATION

Elaine

FEBRUARY RAFFLE

Betty

FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Betty 1988

CALENDAR

February 2—Groundhog Day

February 2—7:00 Hundred X Zoom Meeting

February 2—**NO** Board Meeting

February 3—National Wear **Red** Day for heart disease

February 9—6:00 club meeting at Butler Tech Farm

February 14—Happy Valentine's Day

March 1—Miami University scholarship applications due to club

March 1 Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ

March 8 International Women's Day

March 31 Club Activity Report due to Governor Christine Fowler-Shearer

March 31 Outstanding Soroptimist Form due to Region Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert

April 21 - 23 2023 MWR Spring Conference Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor, MI

TRAFFICKING NEWS

This article describes an interesting bit of trafficking news I was not aware of. Another reason to thank conscientious truck drivers.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023 | JOURNAL-NEWS | COMPLETE, IN-DEPTH, DEPENDABLE

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IDEAS & VOICES

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

- To provide an open forum of community voices.
- To present balanced views.
- To seek solutions to important regional problems.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

You can help this Human Trafficking Awareness Month

By Thomas A. Balzer

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. This ugly and despicable crime is unfortunately happening everyday across the country, including the state of Ohio. The trucking industry is one of many transportation partners actively involved in the fight against human trafficking.

With January designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, raising awareness, and sharing information on how everyone can get involved to help combat these horrible practices is priority number one. The trucking industry has made this a top priority and thousands of professional drivers are already trained to be frontline defenders in the fight against human trafficking.



Balzer

The trucking industry is uniquely equipped to provide valuable assistance in the ongoing efforts to eliminate human trafficking. Truck drivers are on the same roads, parking at the same rest areas and fueling up at the same truck stops that human traffickers often use to sell their victims.

Truck drivers are also extremely observant by nature. Knowing what is happening in their surroundings at all times is part of their training and often instinctual, as these professional drivers navigate through every imaginable road scenario while delivering the products we all depend on.

Recognizing the value

and urgency of involving the trucking industry in the fight against this crime, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) was formed in 2009. TAT actively began recruiting trucking companies across the nation to train their drivers on what to watch for and, more importantly, how to report suspicious activities. TAT offers extensive training and many highly effective and valuable tools to help professional truck drivers identify victims and come to their aid.

Since TAT's inception, more than 1.4 million professional truck drivers have been registered as TAT trained. Some of these men and women, who have witnessed the prostitution of women and minors at various places throughout

the United States for years but hadn't known what it was or how to stop it, are now able to make a valuable contribution in the effort to eradicate this terrible crime.

Trained drivers throughout the country are now calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) to report what they were seeing. Polaris Project, which runs the hotline, has reported that calls from truck drivers rose significantly once Truckers Against Trafficking began. The NHTH statistics show that in the last five years, over 41 percent of the cases that have been reported by truck drivers have involved victims who are minors.

The dedication by professional truck drivers in the fight against human trafficking is making a

powerful impact.

In one case, a professional truck driver who didn't like what he saw and made one call that resulted in the recovery of seven minors. Additionally, 31 offenders were arrested, and a 13-state child sex trafficking ring was broken. A true testament that the partnership with the trucking industry is working.

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a valuable organization doing very important work and Ohio's trucking industry is proud to be a strong and reliable partner in this critically important effort as well. But now is not the time to rest on our laurels, there is always more work to do and more drivers to be trained.

Every motorist should take the training and learn how to identify the signs

of human trafficking and, even more importantly, have the tools to report something that doesn't look right.

And for those in the trucking industry, have your drivers take TAT's training today. If you're operating trucks in the state of Ohio and haven't provided training to your drivers, please consider doing so; it's some of the most important training you can offer and the most effective way you can assist in ending human trafficking.

For more information, contact the Ohio Trucking Association, tom@ohiotrucking.org, or Truckers Against Trafficking, info@truckersagainsttrafficking.org.

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE is the president & CEO of the Ohio Trucking Association.

We will be distributing a new poster soon, so remember to take a picture of it and share it on your social media pages. Truckers use the same National Hotline number that's on our posters. Awareness is key to bringing these kids home!

Jennie

CONTACT US

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