



SoropTalk

Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January/February 2018

P.O. BOX 2336 • North Canton, OH • www.bestforwomencanton.org • sicanton.starkcounty@soroptimist.net

A Message from our Chapter President

Happy 2018! Wow, we have a LOT going on! I continue to be impressed and humbled by the dedication of our members; there are many “irons in the fire” so to speak, and it is through your individual efforts that we can achieve collectively. I want to acknowledge that we have been through a lot of changes – new structure through formalizing committees, a new meeting place, new members, new programs – and while I believe these are all positive things, change can be tough. I would like to say “Thank You” for all that you do, and know that 2018 will be a great year.

I hope everyone is settling in to our new meeting location and looking forward to a long and fulfilling collaboration with La Pizzeria. We will continue to hold our monthly meetings at La Pizzeria, and I welcome each of you to provide feedback to me on the setting and experience. I always want to make sure we have a space where everyone feels comfortable and productive.

Committees are in full swing, and I appreciate each committee chair’s continued updates. I am excited that we are trying new projects, such as hosting a Days for Girls sew-a-thon in February, and also strengthening existing programs such as by adding to our Dream It, Be It programming and by expanding our Furnishing a Fresh Start program. Our collaboration with the DVPI continues to flourish, and we’re already thinking ahead to the Fall Fundraiser! Please continue to provide updates, let me know how I can support, and advise Karen Zutali or Rachel Yost of any dates you would like added to the Remind texts.

And speaking of dates, we have a few BIG ones coming up!

- Friday, March 9th we will hold our annual Celebration of

Next Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

5:30 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Meeting

Location : La Pizzeria
3656 Dressler Rd NW
Canton, OH 44718

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Women March 9, 2018

Doors: 5:30 PM

Location : La Pizzeria
3656 Dressler Rd NW
Canton, OH 44718

tinyurl.com/pressforchange

Captin's Table

February 14

12p-2p

Location: Westbrook Methodist Church

Domestic Violence Project

Needs:

<http://www.domesticviolenceproj.org>

***Donations for the DVPI can be brought**

Women at La Pizzeria. Remember to buy your tickets, and invite other friends and family to join as we honor area women and support women in our community.

- April 27-29, our 111th Midwest Region Conference will be held in Lisle, IL, which is near Chicago. Whether you have attended conference in the past, or are a “newbie,” I urge you to consider attending. Conference is a great opportunity to learn more about our organization in general, and our Region in particular. (and there is never any shortage of laughter and good times!) More information will be available at our February and March business meetings.

Lastly, as we continue to grow and expand our community involvement, please always keep in mind reporting opportunities. We do a lot of amazing things, and I want to make sure we shout it from the rooftops by reporting out through the Annual Governor’s Award (due March 1 each year), Celebrating Success entries (due July 1 each year), and through increasing public awareness via social media and other means. In addition, grant opportunities arise periodically, and I would love if we could focus on applying for more of these opportunities both to increase funding for the many things we do, and to have our voices heard by other area organizations. Please contact me with any questions or ideas, or if you are interested in assisting with our reporting opportunities!

Looking forward to the fabulous year ahead!
Gabby

Celebration of Women

The committee met on Saturday January 27th to go over the details of the event. Mark your calendars NOW! Our annual awards ceremony will be Friday March 9th, 2018 at La Pizzeria! The doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the program starting at 6 p.m. In addition to presenting Live Your Dream, Virginia Wagner, Shirley Howes, and Sally Donze awards, our club will recognize Rebecca Moore with the Ruby Award for Women Helping Women, and Patti Hostetler with the Woman of Distinction Award. The event will be held just one day after International Women’s Day, during Women’s History Month, and is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize individuals in our community who are overcoming adversity, achieving great things, and working hard to elevate others to be their best. This year’s theme is inspired by the International Women’s Day campaign theme, Press for Progress, a push for gender parity on a global scale. PLUS, two of our own will be honored as well for club awards!

Eventbrite has been activated! tinyurl.com/pressforchange

to our monthly meetings* Greatest need is for multicultural hair care products. [Find List of Items Click Here](#)

Club Officers 2017-2020:

President: Gabby Lorenzo
Vice President: Janine Dalton
Recording Secretary: Tammy Iams
Corresponding Secretary: Courtney Johnson-Benson
Treasurer: Kim LeWay

Board Members:

Julie Thornberry
Karen Zutali

Share with all your friends and family. The committee hopes to see you all in attendance for event to help us honor women throughout Northeast, Ohio.

Share the information for the event posted on social media and sell tickets! We are hoping that moving the event to a Friday evening will allow for a larger attendance and hope to have at least 100 people there!

Fundraising Update

The committee met on Saturday January 27th, to go over major projects for the upcoming year and to make sure we have enough money to fund these projects. Several actions were taken to ensure that we apply for grants, including the Soroptimist club grant which is due on March 1st.

The committee briefly talked about the main parts of the Fall Fundraiser including date (September 29th) and theme. We set up a tentative date for the first meeting on April 21st at 10am at Rachel's house.

If you are interested in helping to write grants, please let Rachel or Christine know ASAP. If you are able to attend the fall fundraising meeting, please RSVP to Rachel yost.rachel22@gmail.com.

Membership Growth at the Federation Level

By: Alex Coon

Did you know Soroptimist International of the Americas has begun to feature regional rankings of Membership Growth? This info can be accessed within the Membership section of the Soroptimist.org website, as part of its "All Aboard the Membership" campaign. Midwestern was among the top regions at the end of the second quarter!

Ours was sixth out of the 28 regions within Soroptimist International of the Americas, with a 12.08% growth by quarter 2 (July - December 2017). Taiwan was the leading region, with 20.08% growth reported during this period. It's encouraging to see our six-state region continuing to attract new members, energy, passion, and talent to the cause!

<https://www.soroptimist.org/members/membership/membershipdocs/all-aboard-the-membership/ship-percent-newmembers-regionlevel.pdf>

Special Thanks to Progressive Auto Group

Thank you to Progressive for their generous donation of 1,750.00. Gabby and Kathy Lorenzo picked the checks up at

Progressive Auto groups in Massillon. They have increased their donation by \$250.00 employees like that the funds that they chose to donate are utilized locally. Thank you for your support



Days for Girls February - Recap

By: Rachel Yost

On February 10 we hosted a “Days For Girls” sewing and packing event! We provided child care for those women who needed it and the girls spent their time icing and decorating cookies for the residents of the YWCA! We also provided lunch (soup, salad and plenty of desserts) for the event! There were so many activities going on in the room! Folding, pinning, sewing, measuring, surging and packing! Our goal was to get 50 kits packed and ready for girls in need! We also held a basket raffle and made \$217 to give back to “Days For Girls” for them to get fabric.

Our committee chair, Denise, reported that she is hoping to hold hosting events like this one twice a year!

Please share this so we can find people traveling to other countries who would be willing to transport the kits to women and girls in need!







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Soroptimist International Canton/Stark County
PO Box 2336
North Canton, Ohio 44720
US

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