Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay

Mission: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.".

Vision: "Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".

***Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting* Wednesday,**

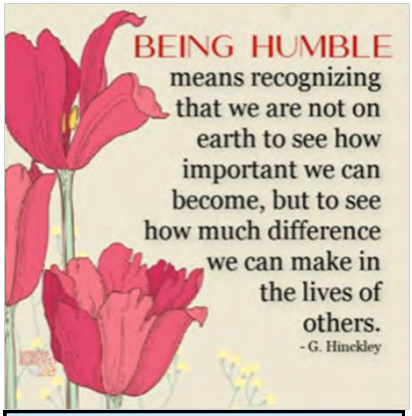
Dec. 14 at 6pm

In person Marilyn's condo Waverly Park Towers

Don't forget to bring your $5.00 fee
Pot Luck Dinner, penny auction. (See inside)

Items of interest:

- Founders pennies
- Girls Aging Out of Care
- Festive Fundraiser
- Membership
- GBV
- Presidents Appeal



Inside this Issue:

- **Connecting with Cindy**
- **Minutes of Nov mtg**

Connecting with Cindy

"Christmas is not a time nor season, but a Calvin Coolidge

"It's Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." William Thomas Ellis

As I am sitting at my computer writing this, it is snowing outside so I thought it would be appropriate to start off with a couple of Christmas quotes. We have our Christmas dinner meeting at **Marilyn's condo Wednesday December 14th** with the annual penny auction which is always so festive to get everyone in the spirit! I hope to see you all attend! Please remember to bring $5 to cover the cost of the room.

It is also at this meeting, when we collect for Soroptimist International (SI) President's Appeal. The cause for 2021-2023 is "**Opening Doors to a Bright Future**", headed by **SI President Maureen Maguire, 2022-23**. The Appeal, now part of the broader, recently established Soroptimist International Foundation, springs from the learnings and success of many of the SI Appeals. So please donate what you can for this.

The membership event November 8th was fantastic! It was organized by **Kim Koivukoski, Faith Crichton and Judy Anderson** along with a lot of helpers. There were 40 people in attendance and Maggie Chicoine's presentation was well received. In addition, the nonperishable collections for the Children's Aid Society Girls Transitioning into Adulthood were overflowing with generosity. Positive feedback from all! The committee sent off a Membership Madness application to the Eastern Canada Region for $100 to help with costs and the received glowing comments from Jean Skillman the Membership Chair of Eastern Canada Region!

At this event, **Maxine Tenander** was presented with the **Seasoned Soroptimist Certificate** for **35 years of service**. This is done in 5 year increments and presented at the Fall Area meeting at which you have to be in attendance. So in looking at our roster I would like to honour the following members:

Judy Perrier (5 years), Sharon Godwin (15 years), Shirley Smith (30 years), and Barb Fraser (40 years). Congratulations ladies on your special anniversaries!

We are still looking for someone to step up as **Public Awareness chair** to replace Faith. She has fantastic records and is willing to lend a hand. Contact me if you think you can help out! **Jane Goodall said "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."**

The Grand Erie club is hosting the **ECR Spring Conference to be held May 5-7, 2023 in Brantford**. It is a World theme and our club has picked **Finland**. If you have any thoughts on this, please advise me. It would be nice to see more members attend other than the 3 delegates (**Cindy Figus, Judy Perrier and Devona Crowe**) and the 2 Eastern Canada Board members (**Cheryl Ball and Karen Bortolin**).

As well the **SIA Conference** is to be held in **Dublin Ireland July 27-29, 2023.** Registration is now open. If you are thinking of attending, please advise me.

A **Leadership Summit** is replacing the Governor's Round Table. Applications are to be submitted. It is a 2 year commitment starting in June 2023 with a virtual meeting followed by another in December 2023. Then in July 2024, the course is in Bellevue Washington (1 day). The fee is $400 US. Early registrations commence in December at a reduced cost. Let me know if you are interested.

Here are some more quotes I would like to share with you:

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." George Bernard Shaw

"We can learn to see each other and see ourselves in each other and recognize that human beings are more alike than we are unlike." Maya Angelou

No special connection to this report, I just like quotes (in case you haven't noticed) and wanted to share with you all! Room for thought for the New Year???

Your proud President, Cindy

SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting

November 9th, 2022, 7 p.m.

Via zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Kim Koivukoski, Maxine Tenander, Devona Crowe, Kathleen Rismondo, Lorrie Haslam, Cheryl Ball, Linda Adams, Lee Ann Nalezyty, Cindy Figus, Karen Bortolin, Judy Perrier, Shirley Smith, Judy Anderson, Faith Crichton

Regrets: Marilyn Fenwick, Marlene Crago, Enid McKenzie, Dolcy Pennicooke, Karen Lynn Evans

Recording Secretary: Melanie Cates

Call to order @ 7:03 PM

Minutes of the Oct. 12, 2022, Melanie Cates motioned to accept as circulated. Seconded by Shirley Smith and carried.

Treasurer's Report – revenue for October $70 club meeting room rental, $26 club meeting 50/50 draw, $92 donation. Expenses for October ECR fall meeting club registration $50, advertising in the Chronicle-Journal for the membership event $16.95, LYD beyond gift certificate $50. A full report was circulated electronically prior to the meeting.

Karen Bortolin motioned that the proceeds from club meeting 50/50 draws be deposited to conference funds account. Seconded by Maxine Tenander. Carried.

Correspondence Lifewater request for monies was received by Cindy Figus. Lifewater is a registered charity and is looking for funds to provide reusable menstrual products to girls in Nigeria. There is potential for us to provide funds through upcoming fundraising events. More discussion will be needed.
A thank you card was received from Joan Taddo for the gift basket on the death of her daughter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trust Committee- Cindy Figus has received the spreadsheet that Kawartha Lakes uses for their Constitution as a resource if we move forward with the application for charitable status via a constitution.

Area Meeting Virtual Thursday Oct. 20th – an overview of this meeting was provided in the November newsletter. The theme of the meeting was Staying safe in Digital Times and was well attended by our club.

Soroptimist Foundation AGM Sat. Oct. 22` - Maxine Tenander was the delegate for this meeting and provided an update to the club. There were minimal changes to the bylaws, and most were just housekeeping items. Both Eastern and Western Canada club representatives were present at the meeting. The new board was introduced. A presentation by the Auditor gave market projections and

activity. There is a new Soroptimist Foundation of Canada (SFC) logo which clubs had previously voted on. There was a guest speaker at the event. A previous award winner from Calgary presented a topic on gratitude. Some clarification on the request for Soroptimist Foundation Live your Dream applications review is required. Governor Gertrud has spoken with ECR club presidents and will take this action item forward to SFC.

Teen Challenge Ladies Tea Nov. 11, 6:30, Women's Program speaker – 10 club members are attending event. 2 baskets will be donated for the silent auction. Each member can donate monies to support Adult and Teen Challenge if they desire but a club donation is not being sent.

FUNDRAISING

Two Bit Auction – April 27, 2022 – planning is beginning. Members are asked to think of themes for baskets. Letters to businesses will be sent out in January seeking donations.

$500.00 Gift Card Raffle (deferred until Spring 2023) – need to determine beneficiary. The Home and Garden Show is booked for March 31, April 1 and 2 where we can sell tickets.

Karen Bortolin will contact Superior Shores Gaming to discuss Bingo as a fundraising option.

PROGRAM

Live Your Dream – Judy Perrier has received an email request for a paper application. Only one application has been received through the electronic portal. Much discussion on the financial portion of the application occurred. The information on financial need is difficult to complete and is seen as a barrier to applying for the value of the award. Several other clubs in ECR are having troubles in receving applications. Judy Perrier will bring forward as feedback to the ECR Live your Dream chair.

Lise Vaugeois Constituents office is interested in receiving information to disseminate on the Live Your Dream Award. Marcus Powlowski, Kevin Holland, and Patty Hajdu will also be sent information to circulate. Judy Perrier will send them the information for the application of the award.

Dream It, Be It - the ad hoc committee has met and planning of the event is underway. Children's Aid has been consulted on the event and a meeting is upcoming to discuss next steps with them. The initial response received was very positive.

MEMBERSHIP

Maggie Chicoine presentation & Membership Drive (Nov 8th) – 40 people attended the event and Maggie Chicoine, our guest speaker, was very good. The committee is going to follow up with people who attended to see if they are interested in joining the club. The winner of the door prize was Gail Brescia. Faith Crichton is doing a write up for the Chronicle-Journal and Melanie Cates will post on Facebook and Judy Perrier is to post on the website. Approval was obtained from Gail.

Cindy Figus has sent Kim Koivukoski and Faith Crichton information on submitting information for funding for membership events. Clubs can receive $100 through ECR for membership events. The report needs to be submitted within 30 days of the event to be considered for funding.

SI Policies & Procedures – Lee Ann Nalezyty and Melanie Cates are progressing with the draft. Some final edits are being done and formatting prior to being sent to Cheryl Ball, Maxine Tenander and Cindy Figus for review.

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin) – no updates

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Replacement for Faith? – still looking for someone to take this over. Faith Crichton and Melanie Cates are sharing duties until a replacement can be secured. Faith Crichton will submit an article to the Chronicle-Journal from the membership event.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ECR Spring Conference May 5-7th 2023 Grand Erie – clubs are required to select a country that has a Soroptimist club to honour during the Saturday night talent show. The theme is Celebrating Soroptimists Across the World. We have sister clubs in Finland and Japan. Travel to the event creates some logistical issues to bring props/clothing for the event.
A motion by Karen Bortolin that Finland be selected as our country to celebrate. Seconded by Lee Ann Nalezyty and carried. Cindy Figus will send the ECR our choice of country. Cindy inquired about members thinking of going to conference and suggested we start planning. So far it will be Cindy, Judy Perrier, Devona, Cheryl and Karen Bortolin. Faith is thinking about it.

Newsletter – should it be in Archives? – an ad hoc committee will be formed in January to discuss archives in general and the newsletter will be part of this discussion. Electronic copies of the newsletter are currently uploaded to clubs Dropbox account.

SIA Toronto is doing a t-shirt fundraiser event for a bursary for Guelph University honouring the women of Iran. It was decided that we will put in one order from the club to minimize work and money transfers. Please let Cindy Figus know before November 16 if you are interested in ordering a t-shirt, the type of shirt and your size. Money will be collected by Lorrie Haslam and an e-transfer of funds will be sent to the Toronto club.

Declaration Forms prior to an event where non-members are present is required by SIA. These forms need to be filed 45 days prior to the event. The form is a disclosure that COVID protocols are being followed.

Insurance Forms are completed when an event is serving alcohol or is larger so that additional insurance is required. Cindy Figus has received these forms. Completed forms are returned to the insurance broker.

Directors and Officers Insurance – coverage is from December to December. The cost depends on how many clubs participate. Last year our cost was $330. Cindy Figus has reviewed the budget submitted in June 2022 and it was included so no further action is required.

SIA President's Meeting – cost of Leadership Opportunities per club member is $400 US for 2 virutal meetings and 1 in person meeting to be held in Bellevie Washington starting June 2023. More discussion is required, and Governor Gertrud will follow up with SIA about ECR comments on the cost to clubs. Cindy advised there is a Resource Manual available through the ECR web-site that only Presidents can access. She will review and send out any information to those that are affected.

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards (SCSA) for the 2021-2022 year are in progress. The 2022-2023 year is on pause as they are revamping this.

December club meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2022, at Marilyn Fenwick's condo. The cost is $5 per person. Beef on a Bun or Pulled Pork is being considered for the menu. More details will be sent out to members. Shirley Smith will be organizing the silent auction for the event. If members want to donate items, bring them to the meeting. Due to limited space, there will be no guests invited to the December dinner. Kim advised there were leftover desserts available from the Membership Drive which have been frozen.

Cindy reminded members that December is the President's Appeal and will put something in the next newsletter.

Members of the ad hoc committee for Girls Transitioning to Adulthood are having a short meeting immediately following the club meeting on November 9, 2022, to discuss dates for a meeting for future planning and to decide what to do with the monetary donations we received at the membership event.

Birthdays:

Marilyn Fenwick –November 5th

Karen Evans – November 6th

Faith Crichton – November 14th

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood

What can $60.00 get you…lots when you go up and down the aisles at No Frills looking for yellow price tags….most items were a $1.00 others came in at $2.00….bargain city…cereal/case of Apple Juice/cans of veggies/crackers/chips/cookies/instant noodles/stewed tomatoes/puddings/dish soap…a cart full of goodies to add to the loot we collected at the Membership Drive… what a GREAT idea that was…Linda and I will be delivering the whole kit and kaboodle on Friday…how fortunate are we to be able to lessen their burden a wee bit… SOROPTIMISTS

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood 4th Quarter

Our focus for the 4th quarter of 2022 is Warm Winter Wear – mitts, scarves, hats, and socks. Faith's sister has generously donated 50 hand knit hats for the girls so we can focus on the other items.

Food is always welcome. Some special treats might be appreciated as we head into the festive season.

CAS is overwhelmed by the generosity of our club and wants to do a photo shoot when we do our drop off in December. The date is still being discussed so stay tuned for more info.

The ad hoc committee for Girls Transitioning to Adulthood met on November 24 and we will bring the information for 2023 to the club in January for further discussion.

Melanie

Chair

Membership

I'm always amazed at people's generosity in time of need.....our guests at the Membership Drive certainly came through for us in our on-going support of the Girls Transitioning into Adulthood.....

kudos to the Membership Committee for thinking outside the box and providing a BONUS ROUND of support to the young women.....

pictured are the goods that were collected that evening with the addition of items purchased with the monetary donations.....once Linda sorted and organized the items her husband, SIRoptimist Ken, loaded them into her SUV.... many thanks....it was a privilege to accompany Linda last Friday to CAS to drop off the non- perishable food items....

Danny Michaud was so grateful for the abundance and variety of items which of course makes it all worthwhile.....a big round of applause to all who contributed to this initiative....FYI....Tucker the dog (as seen in the photo) was not part of the delivery....he remains home with his loving parents Linda and Ken....perhaps surrounded by all the food boxes he thought there was a treat somewhere in there for him....only he will know for sure

Founders Pennies

Celebrating the founding of Soroptimist, Founders Pennies are a classic, time-honored tradition for clubs to support SIA's Dream Programs in a creative way. They are collected by clubs in a variety of ways and are usually submitted with SIA dues. Founders Pennies are calculated by multiplying $.06 per member times the number of years since Soroptimist's Founding in 1921. In the 2021-2022 club year,

It is suggested that Founders Pennies be $6.12 US per member.

Annual Christmas Meeting Get together

When: Wednesday December 14 / 22
Where: Waverly Park Towers Common Room.
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: $5.00 (Room Rental)

Roast Beef on a bun
coffee, tea etc provided

Please call or email myself or Kim with your dinner dish, salad or dessert that you will be bringing

Shirley would also gratefully accept items for the Penny Auction Table

Looking forward to another great evening

Take care everyone
Judy

FESTIVE FUNDRAISER

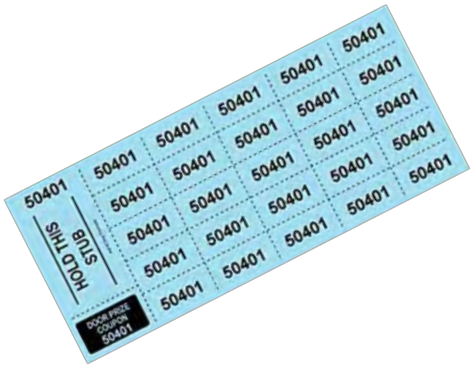
December has arrived and you all know what that means.....SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN!

It also signifies our final fundraiser for the calendar year which will take place the evening of December 14th.

The annual Penny Auction spearheaded by Shirley, and supported by the membership, is an annual tradition that is enjoyed by all and fills our coffers with a few dollars.

We ask that you put your ELF thinking cap on, decide on an ideal gift (minimal cost), bring it to the dinner UNWRAPPED and eagerly await the lucky winner.

How DELIGHTFUL!



Tickets are five dollars a sheet. Feel free to buy as many sheets as you wish and strategically decide where to best place your bets.

Now for that list SANTA circulates each year, without a doubt, Soroptimists will dominate the NICE list. That said, a LITTLE naughty never hurts once in awhile.

May your festive season be filled with an abundance of joy and good health. Cheers everyone!

Kathleen and Shirley

(Co-Chairs Fundraising)

President's Appeal

'Opening Doors to a Bright Future', is the Soroptimist International (SI) President's Appeal, 2021-2023, officially launched on 1 October 2021. Headed by SI President, Maureen Maguire, the Appeal, now part of the broader, recently established Soroptimist International Foundation, unites Soroptimists, Clubs, Unions and the five Federations, with the aim of delivering tangible benefits to some of the world's most marginalised women, girls, and their communities. With plans to establish Appeal projects in each of the five Soroptimist Federations, projects are already taking place in Cambodia and Uganda.

Objectives

Provide access to education in all its forms for disadvantaged and marginalised women and girls.

Provide education to women and girls in a safe, friendly, and stimulating environment where there is equality of opportunity and support for all.

Develop mentoring programmes that encourage confidence, self-esteem and increase the participation of women and girls in society and in decision-making.

Increase access to information, educational resources, and services, to empower women and girls to make informed life-choices.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On December 6, we remember: Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne Marie Edward,Maud Haviernick,Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay,Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz.

We are commitmented to fight the hatred that led to the tragedy, and the misogyny that still exists today. In Canada and around the world, women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals face unacceptable violence and discrimination. Gender-based violence in Canada has been magnified and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been reports from police services, shelters, and local organization of an increase in calls related to gender-based violence across Canada during the pandemic.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action. Achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence requires everyone living in this country to educate themselves and their families and communities on gender-based violence, centre the voices of survivors in our actions and speak up against harmful behaviours.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and goes until December 10, the Human Rights Day.
In Canada, we observe the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women during the 16 Days to remember the women who were murdered during the tragic mass shooting at Polytechnique Montréal on December 6, 1989.
https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/16-days/national-day-remembrance.html

Join SI Toronto on their Eventbrite Zoom discussion on - *Conflict Zones; Human Rights Violations and Women's Sufferings,* **Saturday Dec. 10, 2022 at 12 noon. You must register to attend. The event is free.**

New Month, New Week
New
Wishes
May everyday of December fill you heart and home with warmth, peace, joy, love and laughter. May the love of God be with you today & always. Amen
Winter Wonderland
Kelly's Treehouse

Christmas Bucket List
1. ~~Buy~~ Be Presents
2. Wrap ~~Gifts~~ someone in a hug
3. Send ~~Gifts~~ Love
4. ~~Shop For~~ Donate Food
5. Make ~~Cookies~~ Memories
6. ~~See~~ Be The Lights

50 THINGS TO THROW AWAY
for instant decluttering
Old magazines
Old couch pillows
Movies you don't watch
Movies that are scratched
Burnt out candles
Extra cords
Games with missing pieces
Old books
Broken makeup
Old makeup
Old nail polish
Old perfume
Old toothbrushes
Half empty bottles
Towels with holes
Anything you haven't used in the last 3 months
Socks without a match
Socks with holes
Underwear with holes
Clothes you haven't worn in at least 6 months
Clothes that don't fit
Earrings without a match
Old ties
Old belts
Old purses
Old hats and gloves
Worn out shoes
Worn out blankets
Old pillows
Expired food
Take out menus
Restaurant sauce packets
Old coupons
Old cleaning supplies
Cups with missing pieces
Anything you have too much of
Excess tupperware
Rags with holes
Expired medication
Old mail
Old manuals
Old receipts
Old paperwork
Birthday cards
Broken toys
Happy meal toys
Anything with missing pieces
Things they never play with
Duplicates
Puzzles with missing pieces

Merry Christmas