



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

## SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN

APRIL 2021

### PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE



Happy Easter and I hope this finds all of you well and in a spring mode of thinking! It sure was wonderful to celebrate such a wonderful woman, a legend and hero, Mary last month. It reminded me of what we are all about. Empowering and lifting each other up! So now we move forward to May and June which hopefully will allow us to come together at least once before the end of our year. Fingers crossed.

The big thing to talk about this month is the Spring Conference. I hope many of you have had the opportunity to register for 4/23-24. I also hope that you have taken advantage of the pre-conference workshops. Be a Brand Warrior on 3/23 was excellent. If you were not able to attend, you can catch the amazing job Susie and Alex did at: <https://mailchi.mp/f415487bb82c/simwr-spring-conference> The past events are at the bottom of the list.

We will not have a Board meeting this month, but we will meet for a budget meeting before our May meeting! April 8th will be our general meeting and it will be Zoom at 7:00pm. Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director of the YWCA Hamilton will be our guest speaker.

I am including in this the SOLT PowerPoint that Pam presented at our March Meeting. This is a script only; if you want the slides, I will email them individually.

S.O.L.T.

Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training

## **10 TOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

### **LISTEN**

Take time to listen to each other. Remember that hearing and listening are different. Fight the urge to interrupt people and let them speak their opinions and thoughts. Be present in conversations, remove outside distractions, and ask questions. Great club leaders talk with their members, not at them.

### **PRAISE**

In the midst of working on programs and projects, serving on committees, and organizing events, it's easy to overlook accomplishments (both great and small). Acknowledging efforts and making members feel appreciated goes a long way toward providing motivation and boosting morale. Just when you think you've said "thank you" enough—say it again!

The more you reward, the more that gets accomplished.

### **THERE'S NO I IN CLUB**

#### **I /CLIB**

It's not all about you. Engage members, make them think, and get them involved. Keep in mind this quote from Lao-Tzu, the Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism: "A leader is best when people barely know (s)he exists, when his (her) work is done, his (her) aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves."

### **BOOST THE FUN FACTOR**

Create a fun atmosphere in your club in order to keep current members engaged and remaining attractive to new ones. At your meetings, include ice breakers and build in some social time so it's not all "business."

### **NOBODY IS PERFECT**

It's inevitable that mistakes will be made and yes, there may be times when you, as a leader, are wrong! Even Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor because "he lacked imagination and had no good ideas." When times are tough, pick yourself up and give yourself a pep talk. Think about your strengths and work on your weaknesses. Be tenacious and strategize—seek alternative ways to meet goals.

## **BE THE MODEL**

If you expect members to be active and follow through on their commitments, it's up to you to set the example. Make sure your behavior exemplifies a team player attitude and you fulfill your promises. Actions speak louder than words, so be prepared and try to participate in the club's tasks as much as possible.

## **GAIN TRUST**

We are social beings and, therefore, healthy and happy relationships are essential. When you are able to establish trust, the dynamic of the club flourishes. By keeping promises, being transparent, telling the truth, and demonstrating fairness, you'll be on the path to obtaining the confidence of members.

## **MOTIVATE**

You can't motivate others unless you are motivated yourself. A positive attitude will be contagious as you strive to excel and commit yourself to your vision. Inspire others by being the leader others want to support.

## **DELEGATE**

Empower others by delegating. The leader doesn't do it all—like an orchestra, a club needs to work together, bringing all the strengths to the table in order to make a beautiful sound. Be supportive once you delegate responsibilities so others gain ownership in the task and hone their skills.

## **PASS THE TORCH**

There comes a time when even the best leaders must step away from their post and allow for another to take the lead. In order to ensure the future of the organization, it's important to plan and help develop future leaders. To take on the challenges of tomorrow, key members should be identified and guided so they are well prepared to continue on with our important mission.

See you soon!

Gayle

## **SPRING CONFERENCE**

### **Save the Date 4/23/2021-4/24/2021--- Midwestern Region Virtual Spring Conference**

Here are more events leading up to the conference. Please register for each one individually. Use the link below to register.

<https://mailchi.mp/f415487bb82c/simwr-spring-conference>

### Dates for upcoming events:

4/1/2021--Virtual Fundraising Workshop

4/14/2021---Happy Hour: Celebrate our 100 Years!

4/19/2021---Dream It Be It Panel

4/23/2021-4/24/2021---Midwestern Region Virtual Spring Conference

## **APRIL INSPIRATION**

Jo

## **APRIL RAFFLE**

Jo

Barb second raffle for those who do not have a new pin. Send your names to Gayle.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6 Magda

## **APRIL CLUB ANNIVERSARY**

2015 Magda

## **CALENDAR**

April 1—April Fool's Day

April 1---no board meeting

April 4---Easter

April 8—7:00 Zoom club meeting

## **NEW PIN**

If you don't have a new pin, please send your name to Gayle. There will be a second raffle drawing in April for a new pin.

## **UPDATED DIRECTORY**

At least a couple members have moved and have new phone numbers and email addresses since our last membership directory was printed. Have you sent your updated information to Elaine? We don't print updates in our newsletter in order to keep your information private.

## **SCRAPBOOKS**

Several members are sorting through and consolidating club records and noticed there are some club scrapbooks missing. Please check your houses to see if you have any club records or scrapbooks from the past.

## CONTACT US

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