



S O R O P T I M I S T<sup>®</sup>

**Investing in Dreams**



## **SOROPTINEWS—SI MIDDLETOWN**

**OCTOBER 2026**

### **PRESIDENT GAYLE'S MESSAGE**

October has come upon us quickly. Leaves are falling, and hopefully our 90-degree weather is behind us. Apples, pumpkins and Mums are just a few wonderful sights as fall moves in!

It was so wonderful to see everyone at our September Meeting. We had a very special presentation by Sleep in Heavenly Peace {SHP} and a great show of support from our members through their donations of sheet sets and blankets!

Exciting that we have 7 members that will be attending the District Meeting this October close to home at Austins Landing. It is our hope to bring back some solid information to enhance our already great programs and fundraising we are doing.

October not only brings the fun of Halloween but on a more serious note October features various events focused on women's empowerment and rights.

- International Day of the Girl — Celebrated on October 11, this day focuses on the challenges girls face and promotes their empowerment.
- National Women's Small Business Month — Observed throughout October, this month highlights the contributions of women entrepreneurs and encourages

support for women-owned businesses.

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month — October is dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, emphasizing the importance of early detection and treatment for women.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month — This month aims to raise awareness about domestic violence and support survivors with various events and campaigns.

Due to the availability of our speaker, our November Meeting will be on Domestic Violence /Trafficking. It will be a great opportunity for members to invite friends and family. More information will come from our Membership/Program Committee.

Don't forget to bring 25 Weekly Cash ticket stubs and money to our October Meeting!

Remember the deadline for Live Your Dream is November 15. If you know someone that is in need and qualifies, please direct them to our web page [middletownsoroptimist.org](http://middletownsoroptimist.org), so they may apply.

**Gayle**

## **DISTRICT MEETING**

We have a good group going. Some are first timers, so we're pleased that more of us will see what Soroptimist is all about beyond the local club level and can make new friends! We hope to return with good ideas to share.

## **Calendar**

Oct. 1 Board Meeting by ZOOM

Oct. 3 Soroptimist Founders Day

Oct. 8, 1955 Middletown club chartered. Our 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary

Oct. 8 Meeting—Mt. Pleasant—SCAMS presentation—come by 5:30

Oct. 23-24 District Meeting, Austin Landing

## **October Birthday**

30 Ann K.

## October Inspiration & Raffle

Ginger

### CASH RAFFLE TICKETS

Bring money and ticket stubs for the tickets you have sold to the meeting. Maybe write "sold by your name" on the back of the stubs so we'll know whom to contact if we can't read the writing. 🍷 Carry your tickets with you. You never know when you might see someone who might be interested in buying a ticket. And don't forget your out-of-state email friends. It's easy to mail a check to the winners no matter where they live.

### DOLLY PARTON LICENSE PLATES

Betty sent some information about Dolly Parton license plates. If you order these special plates for \$35, \$25 goes toward books for the Imagination Library.

Ohio is the second state to introduce Dolly Parton license plates, after Parton's home state of Tennessee. The license plates cost an annual fee of \$35, \$25 of which is given to the [Imagination Library](#) and designated for the county where the license plate is registered.

The Imagination Library, established in 1995, is a book gifting program developed by Dolly Parton that delivers a free book to children from birth to five years old every month.

Ohio's Imagination Library program has been statewide since 2019. Fran DeWine, the first lady of Ohio, [advocated](#) for the development of the program across all of Ohio. She introduced Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio with the help of The Dollywood Foundation. The Ohio General Assembly funds 50% of the cost for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.

The cost per book that a county's local program partner pays, after the aid from both the Dollywood Foundation and the State of Ohio, is \$1.30, according to Zorger.

Since August 2019, over 28 million books have been sent to Ohio children, and over 1 million children have participated in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, according to Zorger.

Children in the Imagination Library program are four times more likely to have stronger emerging literacy skills, including vocabulary and phonological awareness, than children not in the program, according to a [study](#) conducted by an Australian researcher.

"It's horrible losing Dolly ... but the fact that people have taken that loss and turned it into wanting to help kids read through her program is just really amazing," Lentes said.

### **HOPE HOUSE**

If you have hangers (not wire hangers), please bring them to the meeting and give them to Ann for the baskets we donate to Hope House. She said they can also use some sturdy shoes.

### **GIFT CARD RAFFLE TREE**

The program committee is asking for gift card donations for a raffle tree for the November meeting. Please bring gift cards to the October meeting and give them to Deb. This meeting will be open to community members and members of other clubs.

### **CONTACT US**

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