



SOROPTOMIST INTERNATIONAL

OF CANTON-STARK COUNTY



New Leaders in Place

Our ***Celebration of Women*** in the Spring at the Canton Women's Club brought forth a new leadership team.

Alex Coon Installed Patricia Johnson Treasurer, Judi Christy, Correspondence Secretary, Katie Abuhl , Recording Secretary, Betsy Walker, Mary Lorenzo ,and Leslie Heaphy Board members.

Tammy Iams and Karen Zutali will be Co- Presidents with President-Elect Julie Thornberry.

Join Us!

Our mission is to improve the lives of women and girls in Northeast Ohio by providing access to education and training that leads to economic empowerment. The organization also works to promote international understanding, goodwill, and peace. We support organizations like *Girls on the Run* and *Days for Girls*, and *Domestic Violence Project for Canton and Massillon*.

In addition, we award educational grants to women in Northeast Ohio.

We meet on the first TUESDAY of each month at 6 p.m. at Kent State University, STARK. Contact Tammy for more details: iams.tammy@bestforwomencanton.org

AUTUMN 2024

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION/RUBY AWARD

Ruby Award Winner: Suzanne Lewis-Johnson

Suzanne Lewis-Johnson formerly served as an FBI Child Exploitation Task Force Coordinator but currently serves as CEO of No More Trafficking and founder of Uncaged Canaries LLC, positions which allow her to mobilize communities to end human trafficking. She came to the private sector after culminating her Bureau career by receiving the Director's Award for Excellence from FBI Director Christopher Wray. As an FBI Special Agent, Suzanne led headline-making investigations that served as a model to train other investigators. FBI Headquarters Units endorsed Suzanne as a subject-matter expert on Human Trafficking, Crimes Against Children, and Civil Rights to train and educate communities on behalf of the Bureau through the FBI's Adjunct Faculty Program.

Woman of Distinction: Laurie Moline

Laurie Moline is a social innovator, youth advocate, mentoring consultant and founder/executive director of MentorStark, a nonprofit which she founded in 2020, the mission of which is to advance the mentoring movement in Stark County. Over the course of her 35-year career, Laurie has served as a producer/director, communication specialist, media and marketing director, innovation strategist and business owner. But she found her passion when she became part of the mentoring movement. She promotes and advocates for local mentoring programs and also directs the MentorStark Opportunity Club, which helps young people learn about the importance of a web of support and helps them build the skills and connections to get where they want to go in life.



AUTUMN 2024

LADIES AWARDED FOR LIVING THEIR DREAMS



Virginia Wagner Winners:
1st place Monique Simmons



Virginia Wagner Winners:
Runner Up Valerie Hughes

The Virginia M Wagner Educational Award is specific to those states in Midwestern Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Women residing in these states who are attending a college or university in pursuit of a bachelors, masters or doctoral degree are eligible to apply.

[click to apply](#)

Through an endowment from a former member we are pleased to offer the Sally Donze Historical Women Essay contest for Stark County students in grades 6-8.

This year's winner, chosen from approximately 100 submissions, was Kayla Porter.

For information regarding the 2025 essay contest you may email Karen Zutali zutali.karen@bestforwomencanton.org.



AUTUMN 2024

www.BestForWomenCanton.org

QUARTER AUCTION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

1-4 PM

NORTH CANTON EAGLES CLUB

6979 Sunset Strip North West

Innovative New Product Line Launched



\$65

ALL-IN

ALL IN reserves your seat, gets you automatic entry into all quarter auctions and offers unlimited great food. No quarters needed.

Can't come in person?

The \$65 ALL-IN gets you entered into all quarter auctions -- if you win, we'll deliver the goods.

\$20

PADDLE / SEAT

Reserve your seat, reserve your paddle, enjoy great food -- and **BRING YOUR QUARTERS** to bid, bid, bid.

At the door - \$25 per paddle

Reserve HERE



www.tinyurl.com/Quarters24



Dream It. Be It.

The first week in June allowed our Girls Committee to host a *Dream It, Be It Camp* for girls who were 12, 13 and 14 years old. This Dream It, Be It Camp was the second event post pandemic. The camp was held at Legacy Stark in Massillon, Ohio from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm for three days. There were 17 girls from 5 schools across 2 counties (Stark and Wayne) who participated.

two and three days.

The presentation topics involved key areas for self-branding, self-identity and self-care and journaling/scrapbooking, along with hands on practice in these areas. In addition, there was a focus on Human Trafficking and the importance of making healthy choices was a focus on Physical Health for Nutrition and Exercise/Yoga, Human Trafficking and the importance of Healthy Relationships.

The session on Financial Literacy focused on developing a personal budget and the pitfalls of college debt and other debt. A session on college presented by Kent State University representatives focused on the admissions and registration process along with finances. The final presentation involved a teacup exercise that symbolized the uniqueness and value of each individual girl.

[Check our website for scholarship details for women and girls.](#)

- Many thanks to our Members who went above and beyond to make this a successful event -- our second since the pandemic.



Women's Committee for the Win

The Women's Committee of our Club was honored this summer by the Domestic Violence Project Inc. (DVPI). We were the recipients of the Purple Globe Award for our commitment to empowering women in the Stark County community.

For over 12 years, the Women's Committee has brought bi-monthly / monthly meal sharing and themed activities to the families in the shelter. In addition, we have earned and donated funds to supply new bedding and beds for families moving out of the shelter and into their new homes. This outreach is our Furnishing a Fresh Start project.



Fun with Families at the DVPI

Planting Flowers, Making Sugar Scrubs and working with Bead Art proved fun and meaningful activities for the families who came out to enjoy some food and fellowship with the dedicated volunteers of our Women's Committee.



We visit the Canton location from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on the THIRD Tuesday of every month. We provide a meal complete with drinks and dessert plus an activity for the Moms and also for the children. In addition, we try to bring items on the DVPI wish list.

Joining the Pickleball Craze

When the Board decided that some mini fundraisers would be done in 2024 in lieu of a big moneymaker (!), we decided to make a big dill with a Pickleball fundraiser in August. Held at the Hall of Fame Fitness Center, round-robin doubles were played with about 30 folks joining in the fun. We had a few raffle baskets and lots of fun. Next year ... will be bigger and better! Be sure to practice your dinking skills.

