

STONEBRIDGE EXCHANGE - MAY/JUNE 2020

Women's Club Presidents' Message

Jean Katarsky and Linda Longo



The past few months have been trying times for all of us. We have been put to the test, missing families, friends, and our everyday life. We are optimistic; this too shall pass. We have all been helping each other, checking on our neighbors, and staying in touch using various methods of communication. When possible, it's nice to hear a voice and see a face, so FaceTime, Google Meet and Zoom are quickly replacing email or text messages as our preferred modes of communication. To show our support and compassion, the Women's Club contracted with the Princeton Soup and Sandwich Company and donated lunch to the Critical Care staff at Princeton Medical Center. We also sent a generous donation to Elijah's Promise to help support their food bank.

Since its inception, the Women's Club has supported various charities. This year, in conjunction with the Men's Club and the Veterans Club, we have decided to focus on raising funds for K9's For Warriors. This is the nation's largest veteran service organization providing, at no cost to those in the program, highly skilled service dogs to disabled American heroes. It is a very worthy cause that is halting veteran suicide and returning our service men and women to a life of dignity and independence. The organization trains rescue dogs to be paired as Service Dogs for warriors with service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or military sexual trauma (MST). Through this tremendous program, many men and women who have completed the three-week training can return to their families and communities with a new "leash" on life.

Our goal is to raise at least \$15,000 which will go directly to cover the expense of training a dog and matching it to a veteran. The three Clubs are planning several events and reaching out to other Clubs asking for their support, as well. We have already planned an original play performance by the Italian-American Club, a Fashion Show, Special Bingo, Saturday Night Out, Trivia Night, and the USO Veterans' Show. Unfortunately, under current circumstances, some of the planned events will need to be postponed. When our clubhouse opens again, we will eagerly proceed with these and other fundraising activities so we can make a generous donation that will make a difference in the life of a veteran!

As mentioned in previous articles, the Executive Board and the Nominating Committee are following our by-laws and moving forward with updating our membership on the status of the 2020-2021 slate of new officers. The Executive Board is focused on upholding our responsibilities as the elected body of the Women's Club as we continue to meet using Zoom as our on-line communication tool. In order to stay in touch with our membership, we will provide monthly email updates. We are anxious to welcome everyone back to our general meetings and look forward to the day when we gather again. In the interim, please stay well.

Together we can do anything!!!

