

SPOTLIGHT ON THE WOMEN'S CLUB
Creating New Team Opportunities for the Women's Club
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“When written in Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters.
One represents danger, and the other represents opportunity.” - John F. Kennedy

It was not the “Call of the Wild,” yet it was a call answered by women who felt it would be WILD to discontinue the Stonebridge Women’s Club.

Here’s the backstory: every year a Nominating Committee is dispatched by the Women’s Club by-laws to call Stonebridge women to see if they may be interested in an Executive Board position. All positions, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Communication Secretary, and Membership Secretary were available last June. In this post-pandemic age, despite the convincing conversations from this Committee, the idea of committing to spending time on a volunteer position was seemingly not something anyone wanted. There were no takers.

With thinking caps on, the then nine-member Executive Board decided to break down the tasks of each Executive Board member and become a Leadership Team, without officer titles and with additional responsibilities, just to keep the Club going for the 2022-2023 membership year. In addition, four “Facilitators,” June Vardaro, Bonnie Silleck, Jean Katarsky and Sandie Bowen led each of three monthly meetings as we kept the Women’s Club organized and the charitable and social events going. Knowing the additional tasks were overwhelming each Leadership Team member, this format could not be sustained beyond this membership year. With an expiration date for the Club looming large, a communication was sent out to see if there were women interested in opportunities to help and available to commit to a task that would help the Club continue. Absolutely pleasantly and gratefully surprised, eleven additional women came forward and the tasks usually completed by Officers were divvied up. In addition, about ten women indicated they would be “on call” to help with different events and responsibilities. Speaking for myself, three enthusiastic ladies picked up my additional three tasks, allowing me to focus on just two remaining responsibilities. For the future of the Women’s Club, we met several times outside of the monthly Leadership Team meetings to ensure that the new volunteers understood their new tasks, knew they would be mentored and could commit to sustaining this wonderful organization.

All along, ongoing programs such as the Making Strides for Breast Cancer, Bingo, TAP with the Monroe Twp. High School students and Caring Cooks with Ronald McDonald House were unaffected as they were already supported by lead women with devoted and faithful teams.

Excitingly, when we move into the 2023-2024 membership year, annual dues will be reinstated and the enthusiastic, organized team of women listed here, with additional helpers, will structure all events and communications to members, ensuring the social, charitable and educational mission of the Stonebridge Women’s Club will survive and flourish. Thank you Stonebridge women for appreciating a club where we can get together for fun, fellowship and making a difference in our world. **Onward and upward!**