



December 2014 GLWA Newsletter

Next meeting: December 8, 2014

"Ho, Ho, Ho Ladies!" Can you believe it's almost that time of year again? AAAAHHHHH, Christmas! The most wonderful time of the year! The lights, The snow, the decorations, Christmas gatherings with family and friends, The season To be a cheerful giver, magic always seems to be in the air.....

Please join us for our own magical evening at our annual Christmas Party and Meeting: December 8, 2014 at the "The Inns" of Geneva National

Social 5:00pm

Dinner 6:00pm

Meeting 7:00 pm

There will be 4 gifts to give away for the best "whatever" you come up with....., maybe it's the ugly Christmas sweater you'd like to show off, or the coolest holiday socks or slippers, or you come wrapped in lights & bows? (ah, don't forget to wear some clothes underneath that get up....this isn't that kind of party!!), Anyone want to dress as Santa for the evening?

- ** 5-7 pm will be our silent auction (please bring something that you love and would personally bid on if you saw it at another auction) **
- ** If you are able to help with clean up, please call Kelly Braid at 847.707.0009 **

** There will be a \$5.00 charge per person to cover the cost of meat for our dinner, but I also need for everyone to bring something to share. Please see the list below and bring something according to your last name, and if you'd like to bring something additional, well.....thank you!

A-F = bring a dessert

G-M = bring ginger ale, bottled water or wine (i will have an urn w/coffee)

N-Z = bring a side dish or appetizer (some warm dishes would be nice!)

** If you did not pay the \$5 at the November meeting, please bring your \$5 cash or check and please call Kelly Braid to let her know you plan to attend.

1. Dinner starts at 6pm, but don't worry if you can't be there right at that time, there'll be plenty of food!
2. Ladies, if you are bringing a dish to pass that needs a serving utensil, please remember to bring one (this one is important!!)

ONE MORE THING!!

If anyone is interested in doing a "secret sock exchange", here's what you need to do: Buy a pair of socks (doesn't have to be Christmas), fill the socks with a surprise (no more than \$10)...your items could be: mini liquor or wine bottles- (yeah, I thought that would get your attention!!), candles, candy, nuts or chocolates, an ornament, coffee/tea, gift card, jewelry or something homemade is always a treasured gift - whatever you'd like. Don't wrap the socks, fill the socks with your goodies, then tie a ribbon around the two open ends. There will be a basket for all the socks to go in when you arrive, by the end of the evening, all who participated will take & go home with a pair of socks (that you didn't bring). I know there's a lot going on this evening and other things you need to remember to do and bring, but please join in on the fun!!

If you have any questions, please call Kelly Braid at 847.707.0009

Additional Christmas Party Information!

Silent Auction for December- Bonnie Hawkins

Reminding everyone to be thinking about an item to bring for the auction – this is our largest auction fundraiser of the year and it is always a fun event where you can purchase holiday gifts that are unique and different.

Thanks a bunch, Bonnie

Holiday/Christmas Party Drop Off Site: Janis Hartley

If anyone would like to drop off their silent auction item, Holiday Helping Hands stocking fillers, or filled Secret Santa Socks before the party, please be sure to do the following:

1. Auction item must be in a sealed bag or box with your name on it, value, and description of item
2. Secret Santa Socks – filled with surprises (toiletries, mini liquor bottles, nail polish, tickets to a fun event, gift cards) both socks tied tightly together and placed in a see-through sealable gallon size zip lock bag

Location: Please deliver to Keefe Office at The Geneva National. Place on floor of office to right of the water fountain!

All items should be dropped off NO LATER THAN MONDAY DECEMBER 8th AT 2PM.

New Member Orientation: Janis Hartley

Will be held on Monday, December 8th BEFORE the Holiday Party starts.

Prospective new members should plan to arrive between 4:30-4:45pm to meet with Janis Hartley



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Peace on earth and Goodwill to all. A simple and powerful message, today and every day. It does not seem possible that 2015 is literally right around the corner. How did this year fly by so quickly? Looking back at what GLWA has accomplished it is quite amazing. We started off our year with the YMCA auction, awarded another 4 year scholarship, moved right into Safety Town, cookbooks showed up in major resorts and retail outlets throughout Walworth County, Venetian Fest on the lakefront, a hugely successful Ladies Day Luncheon, a new opportunity to meet fantastic interesting women at our membership drive, and Holiday helping hands and the Electric parade are happening now. Thank you GLWA members, who along with our friends and families, have truly made a difference in our community by supporting so many worthwhile programs and organizations.

Many thanks to Internal Director Francie Jacobs and all our members who brought treats for the November meeting at Braagi. So many of you helped out and I don't want to miss anyone, so a huge THANK YOU!!! to you lifesavers.

Tis the season, so don't miss the GLWA float in the electric parade on Saturday Dec 6, there's shopping and wrapping to be done for our holiday families, the party will be fun and merry silent auction items for us to shop, sock exchange and many smiling new faces to greet. Please come and share in the joy and laughter and feel free to bring a friend or two. We will have a special guest, Ms Ann Connors from the new Belfry Theatre joining us as well.

It is sensory overload this time of year and it can be easy to forget that many in our community are silently suffering, whether depression, shortage of food, warm shelter, proper clothing, family support, transportation, etc. So while your arms are full from bringing all those things to our meeting let me throw another one at you. Did you know that to a homeless person one of the most precious items to receive are socks? Maybe while looking for fun Christmas socks you

could pick up some generic socks for the rotating mens homeless shelter. I don't believe we have ever supported them in the past and as a women's group we tend to naturally lean towards women and families.

We have so many opportunities for involvement coming up in the new year and I hope that each of you finds at least one passion, or better yet, create one. The nominating committee meets in January, the YMCA auction will need help starting in January as well and it's never too early to get involved with Safety town. Maybe try a different project this year.

I don't know if our snowbirds have headed south yet, but a heartfelt bon voyage to you ladies and we look forward to seeing you in the spring.

May we always continue to Raise hopes Raise fundsRaise spirits.

From my heart to yours I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a blessed holiday season.

Peace,

Cathy

Reports From Committees Chairs:

Food Pantry - Trish Schmelzer

I have many items to put into the "Girlie Bags." However, I could use deodorant and socks, headbands or gloves. All of these items can be found at The Dollar Store. The one size fits all gloves have been a popular item.

As always we need feminine hygiene products.

Thanks for your generosity.

Twin Oaks - Penny Hallett

WISH LIST

- *Critter-Proof, Large Locking Plastic boxes for storage*
- *Sidewalk salt*
- *Light Bulbs*
- *Kitchen Scrubbies*
- *White Copy Paper*
- *Floor cleaner*
- *Pots and Pans*
- *Spoons, Forks*

- *Plates, Bowls*
- *Laundry Detergent*
- *Dish Soap*
- *9 volt batteries for smoke alarms*
- *Bath towels*
- *Washcloths*
- *50-55 Gallon Garbage Bags*
- *Extra-large Leaf bags*
- *Toilet Paper*
- *Paper Towels*
- *Razors & Shaving cream*
- *Shampoo & Conditioner*
- *Deodorant*
- *Shower Heads & Toilet repair kits*
- *\$25 Gas Gift Cards*
- *Stamps*
- *Used VCR's & DVD Players*
- *Coax Cables*
- *Quarters for Laundry*

We also accept used clothing and household items. When our residents move out they are allowed to "shop" from the shed because many of the residents do not have all the items necessary for furnishing their homes. Some of the household items that we are low on are dishes, pots and pans, baking dishes, spoons, and other cooking utensils. The items do not need to be new and if anyone has these items that they are going to be getting rid of we would greatly appreciate having them. If you have any questions please feel free to email Elizabeth (eknapp@community-action.org) or call her at 262-882-4143.

[Lakeland Animal Shelter- Missy Putnam](#)

Lakeland Animal Shelter has put out another urgent request for bleach.

Exciting news! The Shelter just had their groundbreaking ceremony this past Saturday for the new adoption center. It is expected to be up and running by next fall. It is the first 4,000 square foot stage of a brand new 18,000 facility. For more information and updates visit www.lakelandanimalshelter.org.

Sip & Purr – Wonderful News!

I checked with Kristen Perry to find out how much the dog GLWA sponsored was auctioned for. Below is her response.

“The doggy went to its happy home for \$750!!! Could you please pass on my personal thanks to the ladies as well! We really appreciate the group's support! “

Helping Hands at Christmas – Kathy Papcke

We have the needs and wants of our two families! Kathy Seeberg, Julie Stern and Missy Sell and Missy's son, have all volunteered for this committee.

We will need a few more helping hands for wrapping gifts (This date will be announced at the meeting!) and collecting food items and stocking stuffers!!!

I have emailed everyone an updated food list, and would like things to be dropped off at The Walworth County Visitors Bureau by December 11, before 4:30pm.

If you would like to give some stocking stuffers we have two families.

Family 1: A single mom with a 12 year old daughter, 11 year old son and a 9 month old son.

Family 2: A Grandmother, with three boys, 13 years old, 11 years old and 3 years old.

So small toys (cars, colors, coloring books, candy, cards, chap sticks, ect.

Hand lotions, soaps, candy for the moms)

Also if someone would like to provide small stockings that would also be wonderful!!

Christmas Parade Float - Francine Jacobs

The Sights and Sounds of Christmas

Our float is truly a family affair, We could not make it happen without Mark Pankus (Pat's son); Dale and Anne Emmerich (Ellie Curtiss's daughter and son-in-law) and Dave Besenhofer (Debbie's husband). Mark once again secured the float and is loaning us his generator, Dale and Anne are providing the led lighting, and Dave is our driver. Then, there is our Committee with an abundance of great ideas. The GLWA family is wonderful in every way, and we are so grateful for everyone's help and enthusiasm as we roll out the float again this year.

We will be decorating the float on Friday, December 5, at 2:30 p.m. The Parade starts at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. If you or your family members would like to join in the fun, please let Francine know by sending her an email to: franciefos@gmail.com. This is a time to be merry, and the more the Merrier. So, come on down!

Internal Director - Francine Jacobs

We will be ordering name badges for all of our new members soon. If you are a new member, there is no charge. If you are an existing member, who once had a name badge, and would like to order a new one, the cost is \$5.00. Please email Francine Jacobs with your request and how you would like your name to appear on your badge. franciefos@gmail.com

Nominating Committee- Cathy Stoodley

The nominating committee consists of 5 members. One member must be a current board member, one a past board member and three general members. The goal is

to field a slate of candidates for the 5 elected Board positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Internal Director and Treasurer.

Each GLWA member must be called on the phone and asked if she is interested in running for a board position and what committees she would like to be involved with. Every attempt must be made to speak with that person but if she wishes to communicate back to you via another method that's fine, n there is still a record of contact. The membership list is divided up into fifths and each committee member contacts their assigned active members, honorary and associate members are not to be contacted for board positions. The slate is presented at the February meeting and any nominations from the floor are taken as well. As this is an election, more than one person may be on the ballot for any position. The general election is held at the March meeting. The Board term runs from May to April.

2015

Projecting into the future: Is there anyone who would be interested in hosting one of our meetings? You won't do it alone, and our members will give you a lot of help. We promise.

December Birthdays:

Dec. 16 – Maggie Martens

Guess the Member Win a Prize!

There will be no mystery Member this month! Look for someone at the January 2015 meeting!

Prayers and Proud Moments

A giant Thank you for all the good thoughts and prayers after our surgerys.

From: Kathy Papcke and Janis Hartley!

What to bring to the December Meeting:

** Auctions items*

- * Dish to pass
- * Sock to exchange (optional!)
- * Lakeland Animal Shelter - bleach!
- * The Shelter is also in need of cat and kitten food, both dry and canned.
- * Used cookbooks for the Walworth County Food Pantry
- * Things from the Twin Oaks Wish List

Upcoming events:

Christmas Parade in Lake Geneva Dec. 6, 2014

GLWA Meeting Dec. 8, 2014

YMCA Auction on February 21, 2015.