

London-Middlesex Interest Groups

Friendship Group

At the moment there are two activities organized under the banner of “Friendship Groups” – the monthly **Breakfast Socials** held at Shelley’s Restaurant, Lamplighter Inn on Wellington Rd. South. No reservations needed, just show up.

The **Hiking/Walking Group** is weather-dependent and email notifications go out within a couple of days of the projected walk, to members who have indicated an interest in joining the group. Some walkers choose to go to a nearby restaurant for lunch after the walk. Contact jackiekinder11@gmail.com to be on the list for notification. (see the 2023 newsletter page 4 for more information).

The Branch Presidents encourage members to take the initiative on starting a new Activity for small groups to enjoy, such as dining in a local ethnic restaurant, organizing a Knitting/Crocheting club, Bridge club, Theatre or Movie outings or perhaps a Spring/Fall Sunday Car Rally etc..

Book Clubs

There are two long established Branch Book Groups – both of which have reached the limit of the numbers that can be accommodated since they meet in each others’ homes each month. However openings may occur and when that happens notice will be sent out to members.

Telephone Communications

Pre-Covid this was quite a large group of members, organized by Joan Taylor, each of whom contacted a short list of people with reminders of the month’s luncheon date, Speaker and Topic, Outreach donations to that month’s local charity and due date for Luncheon payment. These reminders are now done by email, although there are a small number of members without computer access and they do still receive phone calls.

Keeping in Touch

Debby Albin organizes some volunteers who can make house calls to visit with members who are “shut-ins” and no longer able to attend meetings. All members are encouraged to contact Debby if they become aware of another member in need of such a friendly visit for a chat on occasion. For contact information members should refer to the Program issued each August.

Courtesy/Goodwill

If a member has suffered the loss of spouse or other close family member, Sharon Riley will send a card of condolence when notified of such a need.

Special Occasion Choir

Johanna Hurd has been a long time piano player for our Branch’s choir but lacking a leader/conductor it has only been possible for her to rehearse the group of singers for a special occasion such as a performance at the 2022 Convention held in London. The

choir members would very much appreciate having **someone volunteer to be a leader/conductor** to rehearse once a week prior to a short performance at our November-Christmas and May Luncheons.

Our Outreach Program

At five of our Luncheons members are asked to bring donations specific for that month's local charity such as Strathroy and Area Women's Rural Resource, Children's Literacy, My Sisters' Place, the London Food Bank and Education and Kiwanis Music Award Recipients. Members may choose to donate goods or cash and two members ensure that all donations are taken to the appropriate location each month.

AT LUNCHEONS ... fund-raising

Book Sale

At each luncheon members can either donate or buy a pre-owned book(s) at the Book table. Four of our members display the books for sale, collect proceeds and ensure the remaining books are bagged to be taken home by other volunteers until returned at the next luncheon.

Table Decorations

Irene Gauvin organizes a group of "crafty" ladies to make very attractive table decorations for each table at the luncheons, the theme suiting the month. They not only enhance our venue but often go home with a member for a small charge that offsets the cost of materials.

Draws

Another fund-raiser is the 50-25-25 Draw held at each luncheon. Tickets are purchased by members attending, then the draw goes to one lucky winner for 50% and another for 25% while the Brach has the remaining 25%. Some months members donate a basket of ?? that can also be won by a lucky ticket-holder.

These fund-raiser activities sponsor the delegates attending the annual RWTO Convention.