

## **London-Middlesex Branch Activities**

### **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 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.

### **Branch Choir**

The Branch Choir rehearses for 8 Tuesday afternoons in the Fall to sing at the November Festive Lunch and again for 8 weeks prior to the May Banquet. In June 2026 for the special occasion, 70th Anniversary Convention being held at Clare Hall, Western University, our 22 member Branch Choir has been invited to sing.

### **Our Outreach Program**

For our Community Outreach Program, some of our charity supports remain the same each year, as is suggested and voted upon by the membership in May, and some of the charities that we support each year are tailored to the Speaker and Topic of the Month. Click on "Charities" for more information about the 2025 - 2026 charities we support.

### ***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.