



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

*Improving the lives of women and girls
through programs leading to social
and economic empowerment.*

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Leadership Tip: Appreciate Your Members

Thank you!

Did you know this simple phrase can have a powerful impact on our members? When we appreciate members, they are motivated to come to club meetings, get involved in our programs, and spread the word about the work we do.

One study by the online career site *Glassdoor* found that more than 80 percent of employees say they are motivated to work harder when their boss shows appreciation for their work, compared to less than 40 percent who are inspired to work harder when their boss is demanding or because they fear losing their job.

Soroptimist leaders can take a cue from the business world and apply this to clubs. Some of the benefits when we appreciate members for their hard work include:

Fosters a healthy club atmosphere.

This is a given. A pleasant and friendly environment where members are grateful for each other simply makes club activities such as meetings or projects a happier place that members will want to be part of and keeps them coming back for more.

Increased productivity.

Members will feel valued when they are appreciated and will strive to make improvements. For example, if the club gave one Live Your Dream Award and received ample praise, they may strive to double their impact the next year and provide TWO awards.

Improved teamwork.

Belonging to a team, in the broadest sense, is a result of feeling part of something bigger than YOU. A club is like a team because we are working towards a common goal. When we thank members for helping get closer to or even reaching our goals that bond in strengthened.

Luckily, reaping these benefits doesn't always need to be a big staged event with certificates and plaques - although it can be! Showing appreciation can be done in simple everyday ways such as:

- A big, friendly smile
- Sincere words of thanks
- Short, handwritten notes
- Emails or texts
- Small, inexpensive gifts
- Flowers from your yard

- A friendly pat on the back
- Words of praise shared on FaceBook or other club social media
- Sharing [why we love our members](#)

Wouldn't you like to make someone in your club's day by showing some appreciation? Try to be specific and elaborate beyond just saying "thanks." By providing details, you will be able to show just how sincere you are. For example, "Without your organization skills our recruitment party would not have been so successful - thank you!"

Remember, when we are genuine with our thanks, we boost morale. By recognizing our members and letting them know what they are doing is important - no matter how small or large the task - we improve the member experience. That makes for a happy member who will not hesitate to renew her membership and continue helping women and girls around the globe!

Sources:

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