

BRIGHT IDEAS 2018

Volunteer Board of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

Ann Bronsing, bronsing@sbcglobal.net

314-698-2988

Purse Auction

At our annual December luncheon, The Rep Volunteer Board has a great deal of fun and also gains some income for the board by holding an auction, all built around purses.

This luncheon is traditionally held following the December monthly meeting of the Volunteer Board. The meeting and event is held at a local country club. Past members of the Volunteer Board are invited to attend the luncheon.

Each current member is asked to bring a purse. It may be a purse they already own, gently used, or a new purchase. For this to be a success, members need to donate desirable purses and think of interesting, "valuable" gifts to put inside. Inside each purse, the donor places a secret surprise "gift." A note with a hint of what is inside is attached to the purse. Members are encouraged to include surprise gifts such as gift cards, wine, jewelry, books, fun items that might fit into the purse's theme and into the purse itself.

This activity does not require any hours on the part of the staff or organization. Each member prepares her own purse and inside surprise and brings to luncheon.

Since this is a live auction, it is essential that a creative, fun person serve as auctioneer.

Depending on the size of the membership, plus the publicity and reputation of the auction, the profits can fluctuate greatly. Our auction brought in \$ 1,111 in 2016 and \$ 785 in 2017.

This is an easy way to raise some funds without a lot of effort or expense on the part of the organization, but rather on the part of members. It becomes a fun activity as bidding gets competitive and when the winner reveals what secret surprise gift has been included. This makes for fun, friendship and sharing.