



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Helping women and girls live their dreams

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Melanie Alwes

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Sandy Groves

Fundraising

Lina Wombacher

Membership

Karen Fleming

Program & Service

Becky Mentzer

Public Awareness

Becky Alwes

Newsletter Editor

Brandi Kimball

Meetings

Meetings are held each month on the 1st Monday at 5:00 pm and 3rd Wednesday at 11:30 am. Email for location.

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Contact Us

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President's Letter

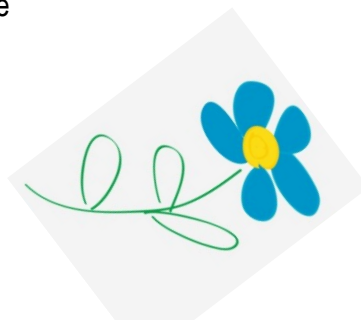
Melanie Alwes

How our lifestyle has changed since our last newsletter in just the last 2 months! I look back and am so thankful we were able to be physically together at the Planning, Training, Social and Brunch at Lina's house on March 14th. Food, discussions, brainstorming ideas for future club events all followed by Soroptimist Jeopardy, made a fun-filled productive morning. Now we wonder when will we be able to be together in person, 'face to face' again.

Sue and Joanie are busy contacting members for our new slate of officers for the May 20th Zoom meeting. Along with President, Secretary, and Treasurer, there are also the 4 chair positions of; Fundraising, Membership, Program & Service plus Public Relations to be filled. Please be thinking what position you would be willing to volunteer for. As announced before, we are also needing a Newsletter Editor replacement. We are sad to be saying good bye to Brandi, not only because she has been a wonderful Editor, but have really appreciated her contributions to the club all these years. Brandi thank you for all you have done!

It is a strange feeling not being able to have the MWR Spring Conference this year. Speaking for myself, it was an event I always looked forward to, glad to be a part, and returned with inspiration from speakers and other regional members. Now with the pandemic, we are creatively connecting, starting at the club level. When the question was asked on the Club Survey about how members would prefer to have meetings, in person or electronically, meeting in person was the favored response. Ironically, for now Zoom meetings are the only way we can meet. As time allows, being together will take on a whole new meaning.

In Service,
Melanie



SIBN members at the planning brunch on March 14.

SIA Relief Package

Melanie Alwes

Dear Members,
I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

As you know, your organization is extremely concerned with the well-being of our clubs and members during this difficult time. We mentioned earlier that we were developing plans to help. I'm writing to update you on [SIA's Relief Package](#).

During a special meeting on April 7, 2020, the SIA Board of Directors approved the use of Disaster Funds to help defray members' federation dues, SI per capita payments, and where applicable, club general liability per capita fees for clubs whose members have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

It is critical we support our clubs in moving our mission forward. According to the United Nations, women will experience the effects of this crisis disproportionately because:

- women play a disproportionate role in disease response, and therefore are at an increased risk of infection.
- women will be hit harder by an economic fallout because they work disproportionately in insecure labor and being quarantined can prevent them from meeting their families' basic needs.
- during crises, gender-based violence increases when households are placed under strain.
- when health services are overstretched, services for women and girls suffer.

For these reasons, our mission is needed now more than ever, and it's imperative that our clubs are able to continue serving the women and girls who need them. And that means every member is essential.

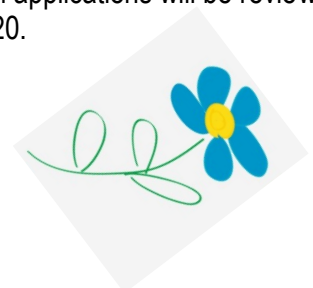
If you have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and would like to apply for SIA Relief Package funding to help defray your SIA dues, SI Per Capita Payment, and club general liability per capita fee where applicable, please visit this webpage for more detail on the eligibility criteria and application process.

You will need to fill out and submit an [individual application form](#) to your club treasurer (or the treasurer's designate) by May 28, 2020.

Your club treasurer will file your club's request for funding no later than June 19, 2020, and all applications will be reviewed and SIA headquarters will inform clubs whether the request has been funded by June 25, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact membership@soroptimist.org.

Sincerely,
Ilesha D. Brown
SIA Senior Director, Membership & Leadership Development



How are you spending your time during the "shelter in place"?

I have knitted or crocheted some part of every day and already have 15 hats to distribute in the fall through our church Knit-Crochet Ministry. I have cleaned out cupboards that maybe haven't been cleaned out since we moved here in 2003. That has been a discovery! Walking, reading, doing puzzles, trying to be positive when I just want to get out of the house!!!

[Becky Mentzer](#)

I've walked every day... I mean every day! My husband and my dog are exhausted because one or both go on many of these walks with me. I'm still working virtually, online fitness classes and preparing to re-open the center (which I hope is very soon). I'm also still training with Karen. Keeping busy and trying to stop and smell the roses!

[Brandi Kimball](#)

Midwestern Region Giving Tuesday Fundraising Challenge



As we missed out on all of the usual fundraising shenanigans at Spring Conference this year, it seems like a great opportunity to leverage Giving Tuesday and relieve you of the money you would have spent on raffle tickets, sundries, basket prep, rooms and travel expenses – not to mention the registration fee.

All proceeds will be added to a single pot and we will distribute the funds like so:

70% Virginia Wagner Award
10% Live Your Dream Award
10% Club Giving
10% President's Appeal

Send your check to Treasurer Audrey using Giving Tuesday in the memo line. Or you can send your contribution via PayPal (including credit/debit card) at www.paypal.com with our receiving email address of mwrtreas@gmail.com. You can also search for us in the PayPal app by typing in @SIMWR.

Sure, you won't win a prize this year, but your contribution is needed more than ever as we navigate through these interesting times.

Thank you!
Audrey Jarvey
N74W13737 Appleton Avenue # 116
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Live Your Dream Update

Becky Mentzer, Live Your Dream Chair

I reached out to our LYD winners to see how they were getting along during the pandemic. I heard back from this year's first and second place award winners, both of whom attended our charter dinner. Both expressed their gratitude for reaching out.

Mary Beth Newby, our winner, indicated she just submitted and passed her "Comp 2" for the term. She enjoyed the paper so much, she said she "was actually missing not spending time with it." She was also missing the paraprofessional role she had at the school, which she was "enjoying before the world shutdown." She sends her warmest regards.

Heather Canuel, our runner-up, had her own cosmetology business, so I had been concerned how she was doing with the business being closed. She wrote she was "super blessed 3 days after the stay order" she was called by State Farm and hired at a stay-at-home office position as help desk operator. She is hopeful for this to be the beginning of a great career there. Her classes were moved online, as were her daughter's, and they were surviving and doing art together.



Member Spotlight

Joanie Gullett & Nancy Raymond

Meet Nancy Raymond! I recently had the privilege of speaking with Nancy, one of our newer Soroptimist members about her life and how we happen to have her as one of our new members. Nancy moved to the Bloomington area about 4 years ago. She and her husband, Russ, currently work at the Menards store in Normal where they both stock shelves on the early shift from 5-9 am. That leaves the rest of the day for whatever they choose to do! Sounds ideal if you can handle the early hours!



Nancy was the oldest of 5 children and grew up in Indianapolis. She married and has lived all over the country from Canada to California while holding a variety of professional positions from dental assistant to accounting. During her many moves in California she met and married Russ and they have 2 beautiful daughters. Eventually they were transferred back to the Midwest in 1985 and lived in a variety of locations in the Chicago area. The move to Bloomington took place when their daughters and 4 grandchildren ended up living here! Fortunately for us, Nancy moved next door to Soroptimist, Lina Wombacher. When Lina needed extra chairs and tables to host the club's working meetings, Nancy generously supplied them. Nancy and Lina became fast friends and Nancy continued to attend and assist at the meetings. Nancy is friendly, generous, and easy going! She is interested and willing to participate in activities to better the status of women and girls.



Meet Joanie Gullett! Joanie and I spoke recently and I discovered she is a founding member of Soroptimist! Joanie is originally from St Louis, Missouri but grew up in Southern California! Small world- I lived in Southern California too! While living there she met her future husband who was in the Navy. After leaving the Navy her husband accepted a position with Shell Chemical in New Jersey. After a proposal over the phone, they started their life together with many moves across the country.

While living in West Lake, Ohio Joanie discovered Mary Kay Cosmetics. She later became a sales director and continues with Mary Kay presently. Her family finally settled in Bloomington in the mid 80's. She has a daughter and son and three grandchildren.

We are so fortunate to have Joanie as a Soroptimist, she is warm, and friendly person who is very committed to the betterment of women and girls. Thank you Joanie for sharing with me!!

Calendar of Events

- May 20 - Business Zoom Meeting 5:30pm /Election of Officers
- May 31 - Club Giving and Founder Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020
- June 1 - Working Zoom Meeting 5:30pm
- June 1 - Dream It, Be It Online Reporting due to SIA
- July 1 - 2020-2021 Club Dues/Club Officer info to SIA/MWR Treasurer
- June 17 - Business Zoom Meeting 5:30pm Officer Installation
- July 1 - Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong
- July 6 - Working Meeting, Zoom or at Lina's??
- July 15 Business Meeting (Place or time to be determined)



Member Spotlight

Becky Mentzer & Sandy Groves

Sandy's Interview With Becky...

When Becky came to a Working Meeting as an interested visitor, I was really excited. Our paths had crossed in 1995 at Illinois State. Our interview focused on life journeys, becoming a Soroptimist, and how our passions develop overtime.

Becky and husband Rob moved from Peoria to Hudson in 1987. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great grand. Becky took classes at ICC, adult ed classes at ISU/Metcalf and got an Associates at Lincoln College. At ISU she earned her B.S., and M.S. in Counseling Psychology. She had practicum experience with Chestnut Health Systems. Becky worked part-time at Wesleyan, then full-time with the Honors Program at Illinois State where we first met. I had worked closely with the Honors program as an advisor for Red Tassel Mortar Board.



Her overall passion is working with and helping people. That passion guided her choice of profession and groups with which she likes to work. She "discovered" Soroptimists when Karen Fleming involved her with the International Women's Day Breakfast. Becky spied Soroptimist literature on a table and thought "this looks interesting". She had considered Soroptimist earlier but noon meetings did not fit with her schedule. She could attend Monday night meetings and that is where we met again. Her other passion is knitting and crocheting. Through church she was involved in a prayer shawl ministry which lead to numerous other projects helping others.

"Congruency" is important to Becky. She finds her personality and values must be congruent with whomever or whatever she works. Soroptimist was a "congruent" fit. It has been a joy to witness her passion for helping people with the Dream It Be It type programs, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Virginia Wagner. Becky . . . you are a blessing to all and our community!

Becky's Interview With Sandy...



I first knew of Sandy when I was in graduate school at Illinois State University working on my thesis, so I wanted to know her background before she got the position of Director of Graduate Studies in 1995. The road to ISU started in the 60's when she earned her Masters degree in Recreation and Parks at Indiana University. She loved her work at various Chicago suburbs' park districts because she could help others to have a fun, positive lifestyle and utilize her organizing and people skills. After a move to Pennsylvania, she was encouraged to pursue her doctorate at Penn State, where she taught while earning her PhD. In 1985 she became a tenure-track assistant professor in the ISU Parks & Recreation department and eventually earned full professor. She then worked in Graduate School administration from 1995 until retirement in 2007.

Sandy heard of Soroptimists from various sources and when Karen invited her to a membership event, she was ready to pursue it. In fact, her first act of volunteering with Soroptimists in 1993 was before she joined! She helped at a regional conference and later the same year she attended and volunteered at the Biennial Conference, where she appreciated seeing the bigger picture of what was being done around the country and world. Is anyone surprised Sandy was volunteering before Day One?!

Sandy uses her organizational and people skills in SIBN and enjoys connections with women. She fulfills her passion to help students, especially through her dedication to overseeing the Virginia Wagner awards. If I kept track correctly, her name is attached to three endowments at ISU; all help others with their educational process - her passion.

When asked where she would travel if she could (when safe), she said Australia and New Zealand. Why? To reconnect with friends and colleagues who have always wanted her to visit. Will it ever happen, she does not know, nor does she know what she would do there; she only needs to know she would reunite with friends.

