

# The Vision

## The Best of: SIMWR 2018/2020



### Governor's Farewell

Greetings Midwesterners

The first thing I want to write is: Thank You Karrie Blankenship! Thanks for all of your work keeping The Vision on track, with occasional, gentle prodding for the Governor's column. As this is my last one, it has the potential to be verbose, so buckle-up.

Nah, after two years I really don't have much to say that's not already been said. With the exception of the last few months – for obvious reasons – I wouldn't change much that's happened over the last two years. "My" board has been fantastic, "my" committees have been terrific, and "my" people have been outstanding. Special shout out to my club (no quotation marks as they actually are my club) for putting up with me, which could be said in general for the last twenty-five years.

The only thing that we didn't do well is The Acorn Guild. After years of feedback, I really thought that the opportunity to support the Wagner Award by keeping our money in our region would be a roaring success. That's my mistake and I've become Sisyphus, pushing a large acorn up a very steep hill.

There are some outstanding questions that I'd like to address. The 2020 Outstanding Soroptimist Award will be presented at one of the District Meetings this fall. That will certainly narrow down the guessing! Several folks have asked about the special Governor's Awards for each District, and the Super Duper Mega MWR Club Award that would have been presented at Spring Conference. I'm pretty sure that the folks who've asked this believe that their club will be announced as the winner. Let's do this. Can I get a virtual drumroll please?

The winners are: All of you, because I couldn't pick just five, let alone one. Go forth into the next biennium knowing that you're all seriously awesome – but don't let it go to your heads, keep grinding.

During these thirty days of June, several things will be happening. Governor Darcy will be getting a lot more email from SIA – enjoy! And I will be sending her a medium size box filled with Governor's stuff: club certificates, the gavel, some random items, and the exclusively designed, brand new MWR board pins. Also included in that medium size box will be a much smaller box, which holds the recently retired, now vintage, MWR Governor's pin. It has been my privilege to wear this pin, and should it ever be worn again, I hope that person will treasure it as much as I have.



**Kris Armstrong,**  
Midwestern Region Governor



Inside  
June 2020  
Edition are:

Articles from  
Soroptimist  
International  
Midwestern  
Region  
Clubs  
&  
Not in  
Any  
Specific  
Order

**ENJOY  
LADIES!**

I tried to have at least one "article" from each club who submitted article's between January 2018 and May 2020

No flyers were used.

### “Time for Us Girls”

I'm normally a social girl, I love to meet my mates  
 But lately with the virus here we can't go out the  
 gates. You see, we are the 'oldies' now, we need to  
 stay inside If they haven't seen us for a while,  
 they'll think we've upped and died. They'll never  
 know the things we did before we got this old  
 There wasn't any Facebook so not everything was  
 told. We may seem sweet old ladies who would  
 never be uncouth But we grew up in the 60s - If  
 you only knew the truth! There was sex and drugs  
 and rock 'n roll, the pill and miniskirts We smoked,  
 we drank, we partied and were quite outrageous  
 flirts. Then we settled down, got married and  
 turned into someone's mum, Somebody's wife,  
 then nana...Who on earth did we become? We did-  
 n't mind the change of pace because our lives were  
 full But to bury us before we're dead is like a red  
 rag to a bull! So here you find me stuck inside for 4  
 weeks, maybe more I finally found myself again,  
 then I had to close the door! It didn't really bother  
 me, I'd while away the hour I'd bake for all the family but I've got no flaming flour! Now Netflix is just won-  
 derful, I like a gutsy thriller I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer. At least I've got a stash of  
 booze for when I'm being idle There's wine and whiskey, even gin if I'm feeling suicidal! So let's all drink to  
 lockdown, to recovery and health And hope this awful virus doesn't decimate our wealth. We'll all get  
 through the crisis and be back to join our mates Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming  
 gates!



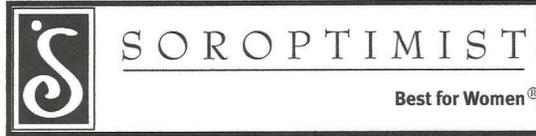
Author: Pam Ayre's

**Pamela Ayres MBE (born 14 March 1947) is an English poet, comedian, songwriter and presenter of radio and television programmes. Her 1975 appearance on the television talent show Opportunity Knocks led to appearances on other TV and radio shows, a one-woman touring stage show and performing before The Queen.**

*SI Grosse Pointe has a friendship link with SI Manchester and I read this poem in the newsletter I received from Malgorzata Kmita, the Friendship link chair for SI Manchester and thought you would enjoy it too.*

*Karrie Blankenship, SIGP Friendship Link Chair*

Roseanne Horne  
c/o SIGP  
1247 Elford Ct  
Grosse Pointe Woods,  
MI 48236



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

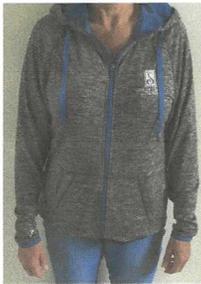
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Shipping City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Soroptimist club: \_\_\_\_\_



Ladies (S) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (3XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (L) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery - **White** or **Blue**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

updated 5/27/20



Some of you asked at District Meeting if SIGP would be selling jackets at Spring Conference and you were told yes!

The order form is now available on our website at <https://www.grossepointe.soroptimist.net/for-sale.html>

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery

Any questions you have about the jackets or the ordering process please contact Karrie Blankenship at [karrieb40@gmail.com](mailto:karrieb40@gmail.com)

# Helping women and girls live their dreams

**Membership Updates as of May 2020:**

As we begin the process of collecting membership dues for the 2020-21 new year, let's remember the top three reasons women join Soroptimist clubs.

According to SIA surveys, 61 % of Soroptimist members join ***to help improve the lives of women and girls*** and 25% join ***to meet people in their community or build fulfilling relationships***. Does your club offer opportunities for member to help improve the lives of women and girls? Does your club provide opportunities for members to get to know each other and build relationships? If not, your club may experience membership decline.

Why do members leave? According to SIA surveys,

33% of members leave because of ***“club functioning”*** reasons which include:

1. The club was locked in tradition and unwilling to change
2. The members never received adequate orientation about what they were expected to do in the club.
3. The members were pressured to accept a leadership role.

31% of members leave because of ***“club personality”*** reasons including:

1. Personality conflicts
2. Not feeling welcome or included

24% of members leave because they were asked to give or spend too much money

These reasons should all be considered as clubs are planning activities and programs for the coming year. Make sure your club is willing to try new ideas! Encourage and engage new members to participate in programs. Provide an orientation for new members so they understand what “Live Your Dream” means, “Dream It, Be It” means. Explain the history of Soroptimists, the websites, the conventions, etc. And finally make sure to include events that are low cost or free for members to attend.

This year we have faced many challenges. It is important to stay connected with your members. Some clubs are holding Zoom Board and General meetings, Social Hours, and checking in by phone and email with members. These are great ways to keep your club going and retain your members during this unprecedented time.

I look forward to sharing some exciting new membership options in the coming months! Stay tuned.

All the Best for Women,  
Roseanne Horne  
Midwestern Region Membership Chair

### **MWR Board 2018-2020 Culture**

Treating our team as family. **What does "treating our team as family" mean?** We are nice to one another, respect each other, have fun together, embrace our differences, seek and appreciate each other's opinion, and are honest with each other in an effort to help us improve. Every member is entitled to their opinion, but nobody should have an entitled opinion – no exceptions. A good team/family gets a lot done while enjoying working together towards a common goal. We want everyone to succeed.

#### **What we expect:**

- Treat others with respect and embrace our differences (Golden Rule)
- Listen to one another (don't just hear)
- Get to know others
- Appreciate and value others' opinion
- Be candid with courtesy
- Make decisions based on what's best for the team

#### **What we won't support**

- Being defensive
- Hurtful words or tone
- Making others feel isolated
- Punishing failure

Valuing collaboration over consensus. **What does "valuing collaboration over consensus" mean?** Collaboration often leads to more ideas and, ultimately, a better solution. On our board, collaboration is a means to gather ideas and make a decision to take action. Our time is better spent working on and delivering results, not vetting options and decisions past everyone. In the time it would take to get consensus on a decision, we can implement the decision and validate whether or not it will work. We strive to prevent swirl, and we support decisions as a team.

#### **What we expect:**

- Actively listen and provide feedback
- Be open to - and build upon - others' ideas
- Gather input from others...but not from everyone
- Look past others' positions when making a decision
- Be empowered (and comfortable) making a decision with out 100% agreement
- Consensus doesn't always work in a crisis, you must have the courage to move forward
- Present a unified front as a team

#### **What we won't support:**

- Not listening to others' ideas and/or feedback
- Trying to get unanimous agreement before taking action
- Always conceding/never conceding
- Pouting or complaining if you don't get your way

We will embrace agility with constant improvement. **What does Agility with constant improvement mean?** We will respond quickly to meet changing needs. This allows us to react to changes in priority and continually improve.

#### **What we expect:**

- Be flexible
- Re-prioritize when appropriate
- Learn from our failures
- Make improvements that provide value
- Ask "Why" questions with the intent to improve

#### **What we won't support**

- Being so set in the idea that you can't improve/change
- Settling or accepting things the way they are
- Limit yourself by existing boundaries

Starting simple, always learning then adjusting. **What does "starting simple, always learning, and then adjusting" mean?** We begin working on solutions early, learn from the initial results, and build iteratively upon that foundation. We are not afraid to try because we can learn from our failures. This value also allows and encourages us to be responsive to members' needs. We will lead through service.

#### **What we expect:**

- Fix the things that are broken (if necessary)
- Try something different, and lead with data
- Exhibit a willingness to fail
- Try it and see what happens
- Encourage and support innovation
- Make efficient, risk informed decisions

#### **What we won't support**

- Allowing "scope creep" without adjustment
- Being overly critical of simple ideas
- Overreacting to feedback
- Swirling

## SI Canton/Stark County



### Member Caryl Church Receives Outstanding Art Teacher Award from OAEA

Caryl Church, alumna of the Art Education program at Kent State University School of Art, has received an Outstanding Art Teacher Award from the North East Region Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA). Church earned both her B.A. and M.A. in Art Education from the School of Art and has been teaching art for twelve years. She has spent the last four years teaching at Perry Elementary School in Perry, Ohio. Church will receive her award at the OAEA annual awards dinner in Sandusky, Ohio in October. She was nominated by her former professor, Dr. Linda Hoeptner Poling, current Associate Professor in Art Education at the School of Art. "Caryl has the amazing ability of giving students the venue to tell their stories in very meaningful ways, creating a classroom space in which critical thinking is the norm, not the exception," Poling said. "I am humbled by the recognition because I know so many amazing art educators across the state," Church said.

## Submitted by SI Suburban Chicago 5/2020



We welcomed three new members into our club this past year increasing our club's enrollment. Our newest member Guelnur Sentuerk (who is a volunteer at St. Patrick's Residence Nursing & Rehabilitation) was a lovely resource for us to expand our volunteer abilities to bring cheer to elderly women & men in our community at Christmas time (Christmas Eve) singing carols and then again in February playing bingo. This helped expand our goals in engaging with the elderly/aging women in our community. Our other new member; Hisham Saber- being our first male member to our club... creates a new diversity within our clubs' dynamics. Marie Delos Santos being our third new member brings energy & enthusiasm along with being our next President Elect for our club, keeping our club's roles of responsibility & honor continuing onward.

We also tried our hand at various fundraising this year, and in doing so we were able to increase the dollar amount of our awards and number of awards given to women this year. We were able to increase our Virginia Wagner Award by 50% **(from past years of \$500.00 to \$750.00 this year)** and were able to give two "Live your Dream Awards" along with one honorable mention.

Our Virginia Wagner award went to Natalie Nowak, the Club's, which also was the District's and the Region's winner too.

Live Your Dream – our 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was Marissa Avesing received **\$1000.00** and is studying accounting at Rock Valley College. The club's 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner Alyssa Murata also received **\$1000.00** and is studying nursing at Herzing College in Nursing and has a goal for a Certified Nurse Midwife. This year our club was able to give a 3<sup>rd</sup> award for Honorable Mention to Jennifer Thomas-Bustillo. She received **\$300** to help her obtain her AA degree as a paralegal at Oakton College.

Our GED –winner Tammy Pacheco who has successfully completed all but one module and is studying for taking the last test will be using the **\$125.00** award given to her for helping pay the testing fees.

Overall our club's fundraising this year helped us give out **\$3,175.00** in scholarships this year... which is a great feeling of accomplishment for our small but mighty club. Yippie!

***Pictured:  
Our 1st Zoom meeting - with our honored guest -Virginia  
Wagner Award Recipient ; Natalie Nowak (red arrow)***

All photo's were snagged from  
Facebook postings

### Midwestern Region members with Soroptidude Chad #friendship

Governor elect Darcy Merritt,  
Midwestern region USA, Patt  
Patricia CavellCavell,  
Midwestern region USA  
Fundraising chair, SI of Flat Rock  
Michigan member Diane Flynn,  
Karen Gehers, treasurer Mid  
Atlantic region, and SI of Flat  
Rock Michigan member Ssilly  
Sally Carter, waiting for our  
tour.



### Greetings from Japan

Lynn and I in the Kimono  
workshop. We had no idea we  
would get our own kimono!





**Vivian Walczesky is with Darcy Merritt and 2 others.**

13 hrs ·

**Having lunch with our Hofu Soroptimist sisters on the last day of the convention.**



**#Soroptimist Midwestern Region - random pics from our dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe @ Hard Rock Cafe Yokohama**

8

1 Comment

Like

Comment



**Honoring our former Governor Vivian Walczesky! Thank you for your service!**





Soroptimist Grosse Pointe is with Paula Davis and 5 others.  
August 10 at 7:50 AM

Here is one more photo with our guest from Turkey at our meeting this week. We loving have guests come visit us from other clubs. If you are ever visiting in the Detroit, Michigan area we would love to have you join us at one of our meetings or events.



We were happy to have a couple of special guests to our general meeting last night. Embru brought her mother Emel who is here visiting from Turkey and is a Soroptimist member back home. We were happy to have you at our meeting and share our sisterhood with you. Thank you for reaching out to us!



Submitted by SI of Anderson 5/2020

## SI Kenton/Hardin County

SI Kenton/Hardin County member  
**Eve Johnson-Timmons**  
celebrating 50 years of service  
to the local club.



## Partnering with Days for Girls Association

Soroptimist of Anderson met on Sunday, International Women’s Day, to contribute our time and talent to a national program, Days for Girls. This program cultivates locally driven menstrual health and leadership in low and middle communities around the world. Our group made menstrual health bags to be sent to this organization. Days for Girls increases access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls.

Together, we're creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all.

Around the world, girls and women resort to using rags, mattress stuffing, banana leaves, feathers, and even cow dung to manage their menstruation.

We are helping Days for Girls provide a safe, beautiful, washable, and long-lasting alternatives she can count on month after month — along with vital health education.

During the afternoon we had a special time getting to know each other a little better and at the same time contributing to a special need for girls and women around the world. Our latest project is to meet every month creating the DfG kits.

## Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

# CONGRATULATIONS!



We are thrilled to announce that our club's 2017 Live Your Dream Award winner, Sara Baker, will be graduating from U of M Dearborn on Saturday, December 15, 2018!!  
Talk about living your dream!

Sara has overcome many obstacles in her journey to graduate from College. As a single mother of 3 children, Sara left an arranged, abusive marriage to start a new life....in a shelter with basically nothing. Sara set a goal to continue her education, worked several jobs and cared for her children. As the winner of our club's Live Your Dream award Sara went on to win awards at the District and Regional levels. She then went on to win at the Federation level! Sara says that more than the financial support she received (\$18,000 total) it was knowing that a group of women believed in her that made a difference in her life! She became more self confident and has achieved much more than she ever imagined!

## Soroptimist International of Middletown

### JOURNAL:NEWS

SI Middletown Ruby Award winner:  
'It's not about me at all'

Jim and Elsa Croucher's lives changed forever when their 18-year-old daughter, Tina, a 1992 Monroe High School graduate, was killed by her boyfriend 17 years ago.

Since then, the Middletown couple has taken drastic steps to keep other parents from burying their daughters as victims of domestic violence.

To work through their grief and to educate young people and their parents about violent teen relationships, Elsa and Jim Croucher founded Citizens Against Domestic Violence (CADV), a non-profit organization.

They have presented "Dating Violence: 101" to more than 73,000 high school and college students. In the last 1 1/2 years, the organization has assisted 41 victims and 76 children with funds and living necessities such as furniture, appliances, and motel accommodations.

A pinnacle of success for the Crouchers came May 13, 2009, when House Bill 19 — named the Tina Croucher Act — was passed by the Ohio House of Representatives. This bill will require school districts to adopt a dating violence policy to include dating violence education within the health education curriculum in grades 7-12.

At 4 p.m. today, Oct. 27, Elsa Croucher will address the Ohio Senate about the importance of the Tina Croucher Act. "We want to make an impression," she said.

For all her efforts bringing attention to this cause, she will be honored next month by Middletown's Soroptimist International organization with the Ruby Award, marking the achievements of women who make a difference.

Mary Lu Flynn, who wrote Croucher's Ruby Award nominating letter, praised her for "taking a tragedy and turning it into a movement for change."

The Crouchers probably have told their stories hundreds of times, something she called "very taxing on us mentally and physically."

She continues her fight to honor her daughter's memory. "It's not about me at all," she said when asked about the Ruby Award, named after the first federation president, Ruby Lee Minar. "We don't care if the students remember our names as long as they remember what we're telling them."

Still, she said, she's "very humbled" by the award.

And what would Tina say?

"Mom and Dad, you go," she said.

**MIDWESTERN REGION  
MEMBERSHIP TOTALS FROM  
2018**

Club	Regular	Life	TOTAL
<b>Midwestern Region</b>			
Chicago, IL	16	1	17
Fond Du Lac, WI	44	1	45
Milwaukee, WI	21	0	21
Bloomington-Normal, IL	24	0	24
Suburban-Chicago, IL	13	0	13
Illiana, IL	23	0	23
Indianapolis Metro, IN	19	0	19
Dayton, OH	12	0	12
Middletown, OH	19	1	20
St. Mary's, OH	8	0	8
Anderson, IN	20	0	20
Kenton, OH	34	2	36
Tipp City and the Upper Miami Valley,	25	1	26
Urbana, OH	18	4	22
Lucas County, OH	17	0	17
Hancock County Area, OH	10	0	10
Greater Detroit, MI	16	0	16
Flat Rock Area, MI	42	0	42
Grosse Pointe, MI	59	3	62
Greater Macomb, MI	23	0	23
Monroe County, MI	36	4	40
Oakland County, MI	12	0	12
Trenton Area, MI	33	4	37
Wyandotte-Southgate-Taylor, MI	10	3	13
Canton/Stark County, OH	37	0	37
Columbus and Franklin County, OH	20	1	21
Fremont, OH	57	1	58
Mount Vernon & Knox Cnty., OH	33	1	34
Zanesville, OH	35	0	35
NE Suburban Franklin County, OH	12	0	12
<b>Total # of Clubs:</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Grand Totals:</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>27</b>

2018  
775 Members

**MIDWESTERN REGION  
MEMBERSHIP TOTALS FROM  
2020**

Clubs	Total # of Members
1 Chicago, IL	17
2 Fond Du Lac, WI	40
3 Milwaukee, WI	16
4 Bloomington-Normal, IL	23
5 Suburban-Chicago, IL	15
6 Illiana, IL	26
7 Indianapolis Metro, IN	15
8 Dayton, OH	17
9 Middletown, OH	18
10 Anderson, IN	25
11 Kenton, OH	34
12 Tipp City and the Upper Miami Valley, OH	15
13 Urbana, OH	21
14 Lucas County, OH	12
15 Hancock County Area, OH	10
16 Tri-State Midwest	12
17 Cleveland, OH	36
18 Flat Rock Area, MI	38
19 Grosse Pointe, MI	67
20 Greater Macomb, MI	20
21 Monroe County, MI	41
22 Oakland County, MI	9
23 Trenton Area, MI	45
24 Downriver Area, MI	16
25 Canton/Stark County, OH	30
26 Columbus and Franklin County, OH	20
27 Fremont, OH	33
28 Mount Vernon & Knox County., OH	31
29 Zanesville, OH	26
30 Suburban Franklin County, OH	12
	<b>740</b>

2020  
740 Members

### Soroptimist International Of Mt. Vernon



Joan Stallard, chair On 2/14/19, 2/21/19 and 2/28/19 at the Mt. Vernon Middle School 10 students registered to participate in our Dream It, Be It program. Soroptimist Diana Oswald led the discussion about overcoming obstacles while Lorraine

Ferre showed the girls yoga moves to reduce stress. On the final day, April 18, the girls will help prepare and bake a vegetarian quiche, make the salads, set the tables, fold napkins, arrange flowers, etc. Soroptimist members are invited to come and join in the fun!

### Soroptimist International Of Trenton

Casey Ilitis of Advia Credit Union presented the club with a generous grant check to be used for our “Dream It, Be It” program at First Step in July. Volunteers from Advia Credit Union will be assisting the Soroptimist members there.

SI of Trenton Area obtained a Soroptimist Club grant for women and girls to offer “Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls” to local high school girls this autumn from the Soroptimist International of the Americas.



### Soroptimist International Of Cleveland

Over the past 30 days the Cleveland Club has been busy getting up and running. We hosted our first official meeting AND service project on June 12 which was an incredible success. We have grown to 35 members and continue to gain interest! We are working on building our committees and can't wait to keep momentum going as we start to build our brand in the community.



Our first service project the "SOAP Project"

Picture is of Richelle and Karen Trunk one of 3 mother daughter groups in our club!



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

### Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

### Soroptimist International Of Indy Metro



On Jun 23, 2019, SIGM participated in the New Baltimore Bayrama Parade. Originally we intended to walk the parade, but at some point we decided to create a "float". One member said she could procure a trailer, another volunteered her pick-up truck to pull the trailer, and another "volun-told" her husband to drive the truck. Yet another member volunteered to direct a few of us in the making blue and yellow 'flowers' from plastic bags, and we used plastic table covers

for bunting. We had a vertical vinyl banner and another member had her dad frame it in PVC so it could stand upright on the trailer, held in place by our two co-presidents, riding the "Presidential Trailer".

Seven other members walked along the parade route distributing brochures to women, and strawberry Twizzlers to children.

We lined up at 11AM but had to wait till 1PM to begin moving. So we had plenty of time to chat with other parade entrants as well as pedestrians. We were able to make solid contact, engaging them in conversation about who we are and what we do, with at least four people before the parade even began.

We were photographed by a gentleman who works for two local newspapers, so we are hoping to appear in at least one of



SI-Indianapolis Metro 7/24/2019 -We held a "fun"draiser this week at Indiana City Brewery called "Quiz for a Cause". We played trivia and collected \$\$ and gave out a prize to the winning team. Our team names were- "Jenny Swipes Right", "Geneva Said Be Here!" and "SME's (for subject matter experts)" I'm happy to announce that one of our SI teams came in second place and not one of our SI teams came in last-

#soroptimistshavemorefun #funwithacause #soroptimist



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### Soroptimist International of Bloomington Normal



Soroptimist Member LaKeesha James-Smith is a strong advocate for women in our community, especially moms. LaKeesha is the Director for Empowered to Create and recently initiated and hosted a “Baby Shower” for The Pregnancy Resource Center in Normal, IL. LaKeesha collected donations from Soroptimist Members and others

in the community for the HOPE Program. This benefits local moms in need and I was able to learn a little more about the program when I dropped off donations. Pretty cool in that they offer pre-natal care for moms-to-be, including mobile ultrasound services and classes. Participants earn “bucks” for each of their visits (encouraging care) and can spend these “bucks” at the Hope Center. LaKeesha James-Smith was a past participant of the program and is now a Director for her own non-profit as well as a fellow Soroptimist, paying it forward and giving back.

### Soroptimist International Of Cleveland



SI Cleveland/Midwestern Region and SIA Fundraising Council Chair – LeeAnn Cochran giving a presentation at the 2019 SIA Recognition Banquet in Montreal, QC, Canada. This event celebrated clubs and regions for their achievements and honored SIA leadership. The fun-filled event included an awards presentation, recognition of outgoing and incoming Fundraising Council and Board of Director members, and the installation of 2019-2020 President Tina Wei-Kang Pan.



President Elizabeth Di Geronimo pinning new SIA President Tina – Soroptimist International of Taipei. Tina’s term begins 9/01/19.

## Soroptimist International of Milwaukee

# Plans for Dream It, Be It Taking Shape



Plans are coming together nicely for SI Milwaukee's first Dream It, Be It outing, President-Elect and event chair Aundrea Price told the club at its Sept. 14 meeting.

To get more of a feel for the event, the meeting was held at Sojourner Family Peace Center in the very room in which 12 to 15 high school sophomore girls, mentors, facilitators and club members will gather on Nov. 2.

"We've had quite a lot of interest from people who want to participate or want more information, even from people quite a way out of Milwaukee, thanks to the SI-Milwaukee.org website," Aundrea said.

She said she expects confirmation of participants and contributions by the time of the club's next business meeting on Oct. 12 at The Brass Key Restaurant.

At the September meeting Aundrea handed out packets to all members containing details of the proceedings and materials they can use in soliciting support in the community. Also in the packet is a copy of the evaluation form participants will be asked to fill out at the end of the day. "This will be very helpful to us in planning for next year," Aundrea said.

She also credited co-chair Mary Esser for her work with educators in locating girls who would be interested in and benefit from a day planning their futures. Additionally Aundrea thanked SI Fond du Lac, and the national Soroptimist organization for providing her with plentiful guidance and materials.

## Soroptimist International Of Lucas County

Another successful wine tasting for the Lucas County club was held at the local Moose on October 5. All worked hard to bring this event for the second year. There were several tables of donations from local businesses, gift cards, gift certificates, and homemade items. Two favorite items up for bid were a home brewery kit for beer and patio chairs redone in Ohio State colors and emblems. Our club supplied several platters of cheese, crackers, and fruit. The favorite was a bucket of strawberries and grapes. Needless to say, there was hardly any leftovers. We supplied 3 each white and red wines. Each guest was asked to score each wine. The winner of the evening was Cantina Riff Pino Grigio 2018. Looking forward to next year and already tossing around ideas. Thank you to all our guests and see you next year!!



Pictured from left to right are: Debbie Wolf, Judy Davis, Shannon George, Linda Sass, Julie Richards, Sue Hahn Sharree Youssef (peeking over), Nancy Flaherty and Mary Bryant



## Soroptimist International of Dayton

The Community Outreach to Runaway Youth (CORY) Project has completed its third distribution of posters for this year and two of the eight missing teens have been found. The club also celebrated its 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on December 12 with the annual collection of gifts for the CHUMS Project. This project supports the work of Life Essentials which works with vulnerable adults throughout the community. They care for our community's forgotten, those living with mental illness, those who are alone, and those who have no voice. By selecting a Chum and providing a holiday gift, our members not only provide much needed clothing or desired items, but our present may be the only gift they receive at this time of giving. For many club members, selecting and providing their Chum with a gift truly starts the holiday season.



## Soroptimist International of Downriver Area

Soroptimist International Wyandotte, Southgate, Taylor has a new name. We are now Soroptimist International Downriver Area!

Club members hope that this new name will encourage new members from surrounding areas (of W-S-T). This Club has been struggling with low membership for a few years now. Hopefully this new name is the fresh start needed to attract the talent needed to carry out the Soroptimist mission.

Some of our District III Clubs are great at attracting new members or hosting successful fundraisers and programs. Would you consider attending one of our meetings and sharing helpful tips?

We are looking forward to going into 2020 with a new name and new possibilities

## Soroptimist International of Illiana

### PADS

Every 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month the ladies of Illiana provide a meal and words of encourage for homeless women and their children at the Church of the Holy Family for their PADS program. PADS is a program that provides emergency overnight shelter from October 1 through April 30<sup>th</sup>. They are able to see refuge in safe, warm locations where they are able to connect with case manager, who work diligently to help participants make the transition from homelessness to becoming social and economic investors in the communities where they live and work.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019 we provide a meal for approximately 20 family members. In addition, we partnered with Dawn's Dancin-Deevas (a line dance group), who provided over 100 purses filled with toiletries for us to distrib-



Illiana Club members preparing display of purses filled with toiletries, hats and gloves for the women.



## SI ~ Flat Rock

At their annual Christmas party held this year at Bridgewater Del Webb's Landmark Lodge, Soroptimist International of the Flat Rock area (SIFRA) enjoyed a catered dinner. Members contributed gifts, which were raffled off, donating more than \$600 to a local charity.

The club welcomed and inducted three new members to their fold: Sandy Kozma of Trenton, Tangie Meyers of Brownstown and Cynthia Wylonis of Dearborn Heights.

Earlier this month, SIFRA partnered with Flat Rock Rotary in the Adopt-A-Child program through Head Start, in purchasing basic clothing, especially winter coats, for four kids in the downriver area. Seven individual Soroptimist also "adopted" children through this program.

The next meeting of SIFRA will be Tuesday, January 9, at Big Bear in Brownstown at 6 pm with a meeting at 7 pm. Our guest speaker will be Lt. Tressa Duffin, an 18-year veteran of the Monroe State Police. She is the chair of the Monroe County Anti- Human Trafficking Coalition and will examine the issue of human trafficking



*Pictured from left are: Diane Flynn, Membership Chair, Tangie Meyers, Cynthia Wylonis and Sandy Kozma, new members; and Valerie Rader, President.*

## SI ~ Monroe

### Ladies Night Out

Ladies Shopping Night Out 2017 - This year's event was a huge success. La-Z-Boy and Starr Insurance Agency were sponsors. There were 178 guests including Missie Austin and Ruth Waggoner from SI Kenton-Hardin County, and Judy Davis, Brooke Bellman and Catherine Schaffer from SI Lucas County. We had 37 wonderful vendors, including 3 of our own members, Anne Noland with Mitten Mercantile, Sue Christie with Susie's Sweets and Eats, and Julie Edwards with Younique. DTE supplied volunteers and purchased a table. They helped with checking guests in, finding their tables and also worked the raffle tables. We will be receiving the \$500 McCarthy Award as a result. MB&T Enlist also supplied volunteers who made sure the vendor donations were received and placed on the guest tables. Cakes by Stephanie donated a delicious cake that served 200. Paul's Quality Collision donated a diamond necklace and earrings which were won by Virginia Oliver, a DTE volunteer. An anonymous Member donated a Vera Bradley Travel / Gym Bag. With everyone's help, this was our best Ladies Shopping Night yet. A huge thank you to LaRoy's for having us. LaRoy's can seat up to 220 guests, so let's fill it next year. Gift Card Raffle will not be held during our Christmas Party this year.

Euchre Tournament will be held in January or February 2018 at the Moose Lodge. Details to follow.

Daily Pick 3 will be held in June 2018. Tickets will be printed and ready to sell in March.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammi Van Aken, Fundraising Chair

## SI ~ Anderson

### Supply Boxes to Service Women stationed Overseas

Members of SI Anderson recently donated items to be sent to Service Women Overseas. Twelve boxes were filled with an **assortment of feminine care products, books, snacks, hair care items, laundry detergent, games and other needed supplies.** Several years ago while sending off a care package to her Grandson stationed overseas, our member Marilyn Akers thought it would be a great project to start sending packages to female soldiers. She investigated and found a website, [anysoldier.com](http://anysoldier.com) where you can choose a military contact and send packages of needed and wanted items to a military unit stationed overseas. We have been doing this project for over eight years. Included in each box is a handwritten note of greetings and appreciation to our military personnel along with our Soroptimist brochure. We also include Beanie Babies. These small stuffed animals provide two purposes. First, they make nice packing materials. Second, they can be given to the children in the village or city where the troops are stationed. Previously, one unit sent us a thank you note with a picture of smiling children holding the Beanie Babies. The unit used the stuffed animals to help build a relationship with the local children. We know that these packages bring some comfort to our troops who are so far from home.



## SI ~ Indianapolis



On April 9, 2018, the Soroptimist Club of Indianapolis Metro hosted a leadership dinner event called, "Presenting your Best self", for nearly 40 teen girls from greater Indianapolis area and nearby Dayton, Ohio. The event was held at the historical Indianapolis Propylaeum hall, which is owned by the

Indianapolis Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is "To advance educational and cultural opportunities for women and the community and to maintain and preserve the historic Propylaeum."

The Propylaeum is one of those synergetic organizations with Soroptimist International, building its foundation from a local Indianapolis woman named Mary Wright Sewall, who in the early 1900's was an activist that campaigned for a woman's right to an education equal to that of men.

The 66 total attendees included club members, members of the Propylaeum, community mentors, teachers and parents. To start the evening, the girls and other guests were treated to a tour of the grounds and historical home that was originally a three-story residence to a local wealthy brewery owner and his family in the late 1800's.

In addition to a catered meal with a formal dinner setting, the teens received some basic etiquette tips from their adult mentors at each table.

Guest speakers included, Shaunesste Terrell, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council and Kristen Martin, Deputy Prosecutor in Marion County, Indiana. The speakers shared their practical insights on social media and its impact on teens and adults with respect to safety and avoiding bad outcomes from those who prey on others.

This event was a follow up to the SI Indy Metro's Club, Dream It Be It Workshop in October 2017. We hope to continue to make connections to help the girls in our community and expose them to culture and other learning opportunities to build their confidence and awareness beyond their current circumstances.

## SI Fond du Lac

What a Joy it is to Give For the Programs of Service Committee, ending our club year means having the awesome duty and happy honor of designing where \$2,000 of our club giving fund goes. This is in addition to the budgeted Foundation Feminarum Award, which is funded by our club's foundation (as part of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation). The committee met recently and decided on the following gifts, which were subsequently affirmed by the board. According to club bylaws, the committee has the authority to direct these funds without a vote by the full club. By the time you read this, the checks will signed and mailed.

\$250 to pool passes for single moms with daughters - The FdL Parks Dept., School District Recreation Dept. and FdL Area Foundation annually seek funds to provide pool passes to needy families. Sandi Roehrig of FdL Area

Foundation assures us that our money easily can be directed to single mothers with daughters (we aren't ruling out sons, but we want to keep within our mission of helping women and girls). A pass for a family of four costs \$130 for the season. Many families are asked to pay a portion of that cost; our gift will help make up some of the difference.

\$500 to Wisconsin Rural Women's Initiative - This organization is state-wide but has many Fond du Lac County women who participate in programs that help alleviate problems of rural women, many of whom are isolated and depressed as more and more family farms are dissolved. The suicide rate among such women has soared in recent years. WRWI provides support programs, both day-long and weekend retreats, to help rural women reconnect with themselves and one another. Our gift will help pay tuition for a few women who cannot afford to attend. We hope to have WRWI speak at a future meeting of our club.

\$750 to Pillar & Vine of Brandon - This group provides foster care, respite care, family visitation services, life-coaching/mentoring to foster children in Fond du Lac County and surrounding areas. There are more than 8,000 kids in foster care. Pillar & Vine sponsors an annual Brandon Family Fun Fest, a weekend event, with proceeds going to programming for youth in foster care. This group, too, will be invited to speak to our club in the near future.

# 2021 Spring Conference in Fond du Lac Wisconsin



## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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SI Bloomington Normal

**Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt**

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SI Kenton Hardin Co

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## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



**Standing:** Christine Shearer, Jenny Prater, Barb Flory, Susan Frankel,  
Connie Gindt, Mary Pilon, Lata Shastri, Abby Bouton

**Seat:** Missie Austin, Kris Armstrong, Darcy Merritt, Audrey Jarvey

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### Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - ([simwr.org](http://simwr.org))

Soroptimist International of the Americas ([soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org))

Soroptimist International ([soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org))

Soroptimist Summary ([soroptimistsummary.org](http://soroptimistsummary.org))

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

Tweet us [@SoroptimistMWR](https://twitter.com/SoroptimistMWR)

Like us on Facebook at [@simwrgov](https://www.facebook.com/simwrgov)

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