

# SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS



## SI Cleveland Chartering Celebration



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women®



# Welcome



**Welcome to Soroptimist!**

# Thank You, OAESV!



## **Executive Director – Rosa Beltré**

### **About OAESV**

As the state sexual assault coalition for Ohio, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) advocates for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowers communities to prevent sexual violence.

Our objectives include:

- End isolation of survivors and agencies working on their behalf
- Improve services and responses to survivors and all those impacted by sexual violence
- Increase public awareness about sexual violence
- Inform and shape public policy
- End sexual violence

# District IV Director – Christine Shearer



# MWR Governor – Elect Darcy Merritt



**Message from our Governor, Kris Armstrong:**

“Cleveland Rocks! Congratulations and welcome to the Midwestern Region.”



# President – Shannon Parente



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I joined Soroptimist for the mission to empower women and continue to meet other strong, smart, educated women in Cleveland.

## **About me**

I have been working 10 years in the insurance industry. Both on the broker and carrier side selling to employer groups. In my free time I enjoy going to Orange Theory. In the summer I am always out exploring downtown.

# VP – Laura Oleksa



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I want to make a difference and show my daughter, through my actions, that giving back and being passionate about a cause is the reward.

## **About me**

I am honored to be a part of the CLEVELAND chapter with these amazing women and can't wait to see our successes.

I am passionate about mentoring women and being a resource for them as they grow. I also strongly believe in the proper hug because hugs are one of the best ways to let someone know you care.

# Secretary – Emily Adams



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I want my daughters to have a better world!

## **About me**

I live in Westlake with my two baby girlfriends (Kendall and Morgan), my husband Mark and our white boxer Izzy!

# Treasurer – Kathryn Jodon



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I am passionate about women and girls receiving the support they need to achieve their hopes and dreams.

## **About me**

I am a newly minted wife, adoring mom of two cats, and a CPA who specializes in tax. I love Cleveland – home for four years now – and am always looking for ways to connect with the community and give back.

# Awards Chair – Becky Clark



## **Why Soroptimist?**

Joining Soroptimist to give back and make a positive impact on our community!

## **About me**

I'm married with 5yo, Lily. Army Guardsman and Oncology nurse.

# Fundraising Chair – Ann Lang



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I grew up with many challenges in my life during my childhood and my adult life. I am passionate about life and showing my kids how to have a good work ethic, take the world “by the balls” and own it and most importantly be “good” people. With that said, I believe others can learn from my life experiences and I’m excited to be part of an organization that can support young girls and women and lead them into a successful path in life! They too will take the world by the balls!

## **About me**

I have two adult children, an 8-year old dog we rescued last year and I love to play golf!

# Membership Chair - Meg Moreal



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I am looking forward to raising money to help women and girls fulfill their dreams. Soroptimist will give me the chance to form new friendships while helping those who need it most.

## **About me**

I am a wife of 30 years, and mom to two grown kids. I've recently reentered the work force at a dental laboratory as a full time customer service representative. I like traveling, animals, and I'll do just about anything to have fun!

# Program Chair – Kathy Sullivan



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I want to share my knowledge so others can learn, gain new perspectives so I can grow and create positive change for everyone to see.

## **About me**

I am where I am supposed to be; stronger than I was yesterday, excited about what is to come tomorrow and grateful for what I have today. I am a professional working mom to two wonderful kids and an awesome white lab. I'm curious about learning and passionate about sharing that knowledge. When I find spare time, I'm running, spending time with family and friends, completing projects around my house, or sleeping!

# Public Awareness Chair – Sally Weinberg



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I am joining Soroptimist to be part of something bigger and filling the void of “wanting to do more.” To know that we will be changing someone’s life and helping them live their dreams is huge. It makes my heart happy and I know that together we can change the world!

## **About me**

I am the Director of Events and Marketing at Sapphire Creek Winery bringing over 15 years of industry experience to the team. My role allows me to continue to be involved in the Cleveland business community, while also being innovative, creative, and contributing to the foundation that will leverage the growth and success of Sapphire Creek for years to come. Prior to joining Sapphire Creek I worked in various roles helping clients grow their businesses through marketing and event strategies, and spent close to a decade leading marketing, events & programming, and client relations in the private club industry. Recently I went back to school fulfilling one of my passions for health and wellness and received a certification as a Holistic Health Coach from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in 2018. I am engaged to the most wonderful person Shawn is an Oncology RN at The Cleveland Clinic, Taussig Cancer Center. We have an AMAZING dog named Tober who bring us joy daily. Wedding in October!

# Kim Bristow



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I have been looking for an organization to volunteer my time to and SI closely aligns with my own personal beliefs.

## **About me**

I live in Cleveland with my husband of 12 years and work for an investment consulting firm. When I am not riding my bike in the Metroparks, you can find me at a concert or cheering for the Browns.

# Erica Cameron



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I want all girls and women to understand the power of education!

## **About me**

I am a financial advisor and love helping people achieve financial independence and success. I used to run for fitness and now I only seem to run after my 15 month old daughter. I love drinking wine with my husband and reading a good novel.

# Jen Daher



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I want to help women realize what they may think is not possible

## **About me**

I am a high-energy single Mom co-parenting two teenagers. My son (JP) is 13 and in 7th grade and my daughter (Sophia) is 15 and a freshman in high school. We live in Kirtland along with our two seal point Siamese cats who might as well be dogs. I enjoy many different activities such as hiking, skiing, working out, and horseback riding and am up for new adventures. Finally, I am always ready for a good laugh and I look forward to meeting everyone!

# Jessica Hanes



**Why Soroptimist?**  
To "Be the change"

## About me

Cooking, being outdoors, and playing golf are just a few of my hobbies. I look forward to making new Soroptimist friends and sharing the Mission.

♥ ♥ ♥  
"OUR PRIME PURPOSE  
IN THIS LIFE IS TO HELP  
OTHERS. AND IF YOU  
CAN'T HELP THEM,  
AT LEAST DON'T HURT  
THEM." -daLai LaMa

# Lindsay Hartke



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I am joining Soroptimist Cleveland because I want to make a difference in the lives of the younger girls as well as women around me. I also would like to honestly be a part of something bigger that can help change the world.

## **About me**

My mom is Laurie Hartke, who is also in Soroptimist. I have a younger brother, Aaron who is a senior at Ohio Northern University. I have a boyfriend of two years. I have a dog and a cat that I rescued. I am currently completing my Masters Degree at Ashland University and will be graduating next month with a Masters in Special Education. I currently work at STEPS Academy as an Intervention Specialist for the Secondary room. STEPS Academy is a specialized school designed to help students on the Autism Spectrum. Some passions of mine include music, horseback riding, and hiking.

# Lori Long



## **Why Soroptimist?**

Women supporting women is important to me.

## **About me**

I am a Professor & Department Chair at Baldwin Wallace University teaching management and entrepreneurship. I spend most of my time beyond teaching as a consultant, writer, property manager, volunteer entrepreneur coach, cat rescuer, jogger (slow), and volleyball player!

# Anne Schmuhl

## Why Soroptimist?

I joined this club in hopes of making the world a better place for my granddaughters.

## About me

I am a widow. I have 2 sons and 2 granddaughters. I graduated from St. John College in Cleveland and received my BSN in nursing. I am currently working as an Oncology nurse at Seidman Cancer Center. I enjoy bird watching, reading, gardening and spending time with my family.



# Sandy Spence



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I joined Soroptimist because I believe everyone deserves a chance to reach their full potential.

## **About me**

I am the mother of two girls and love watching them grow into strong, smart and independent women.

# Chartering Team Lead & SIA FRC Chair – Lee Ann Schwope Cochran



## Why Soroptimist?

I believe with everything we are given in life that it is our calling to pay it forward. I can do that through our #soroptimist mission and vision!

## About me

Soroptimist. Wife. Bonus-mom to 3 amazing young adults. Hound-dog mom. Engineer. Authentic. Author. TedX Speaker. Passionate Reader. Your friend for life.



# Chartering Team Lead & District IV Director – Christine Fowler Shearer



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I have been a Soroptimist for over ten years. I have always believed in the power of mentoring people within my field, and Soroptimist allows me to reach out and do that with more impact. I am joining the Soroptimist Cleveland club because I want to give more women a chance to have an impact in changing the world we live in one girl at a time.

## **About me**

I am an art historian, independent curator, and small business owner. I live in Copley with my husband of 21 years and my adorable dog Phoebe. I enjoy traveling, reading, knitting, and spending time with family and friends.

# Chartering Team Lead - Laurie Hartke



## **Why Soroptimist?**

I was introduced to Soroptimist International by a current member who inspired me to continue to make a difference in the world by becoming involved.

## **About me**

I am married and have a son and daughter. We have a golden retriever and a cat that we rescued. I graduated from D'Youville College in Buffalo New York with a BSN in nursing and am currently an Oncology nurse at Seidman Cancer Center. I love music, the ocean, and nature.