



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Helping women and girls live their dreams

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Becky Alwes

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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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soroptimistbn@gmail.com

President's Letter

Melanie Alwes

The Charter Dinner on February 16th was enjoyed by all as we celebrated an "Evening with the Stars." If you were unable to attend, you missed socializing with those attending and meeting most of our winners and runner-ups for the Virginia Wagner Educational Award and the Live Your Dream Award. Their stories and goals were so inspiring to hear. The program concluded with the "SIBN Oscar Awards," when all in attendance were stars and recognized for a specific category. I believe everyone was on the edge of their seats to hear who the next winner was to be announced! A special thanks to Barb Adams for all the pictures and was the winner of the Cinematography Oscar.



SIBN members (from left to right); front - Becky Alwes, middle - Sandy Groves, Nancy Armstrong, Nancy Raymond, Lina Wombacher, Joanie Gullett, Bernie Lindoerfer, Diana Lewis, Becky Mentzer, Melanie Alwes, Barb Adams, back, Sue Young, Kris Armstrong

International Women's Day Breakfast on March 7th is not far away. There are still seats available at our tables so let's try hard to have good representation. It is a great event to invite a friend or neighbor to, plus what a relaxing way to involve them in one of our annual events. Bernie has sent out an email with more information and it is not too late to still sign up.

Mark your calendar's for 10am Saturday, March 14th! We are having a Soroptimist PTSB Event. (Planning, Training, Social and Brunch) This all in one event will be filled with friends, fun, food and brainstorming. Lina will be hosting and providing all the food for the morning. Come with ideas for programs, membership, projects and etc..., this is a meeting for everyone. Be watching for an invite to be sent out soon for your response to this fun filled event.

Our Midwestern Region Spring Conference is only a few months away. It is being held in Ann Arbor, Michigan on April 24-26th. What a wonderful opportunity to attend a Soroptimist event at the Regional level. Especially for our newer members, this is a great way to see on a larger scale and perspective of what Soroptimist is about. Kris will be ending her 2 years as Governor of the MWR and the new Governor will be installed. Mark your calendar now to save the date. You can see the Call to Spring Conference at <http://www.simwr.org>. Please let me know if you have any questions about it.

In Service,
Melanie

Member Spotlight

Sue Young & Karen Fleming

Sue's Interview With Karen - Think of Stevie Wonder's famous album Songs in the Key of Life, (which was playing in the background during our interview.) As a new Soroptimist member, I was curious how Karen became KAREN-Soroptimist Leader/Member. After we settled in with treats and wine... the story-telling began.

Her Journey to Leadership - As the oldest of her siblings, she's "been in charge for a long time!" She has two sisters and two brothers. But, she is the GLUE that keeps the family together. Karen joined Soroptimist as a way to network, as she began her new career as a Financial Planner. She also wanted to support and learn more about domestic violence.

Fun facts: her favorite color is Green Her birthstone is Green-Emerald (see a theme?) But, as we chatted...I discovered another theme in her life: PEOPLE are the key!! The joy in her membership is meeting people. Yes, she prefers to meet face to face to talk and make introductions. She prefers that over simply texting or directing them to a website. It's the People! When asked what does she want her legacy to be? She replied, I'd hope they say, "Glad I met her." She has no regrets and no Bucket list for places to visit. Rather, she wants to go to meet PEOPLE in interesting places with great views! She would not call herself a leader, but rather a member of a group of great friends...that care for this community and does something about it!

Leader and Soroptimist member for whom People are the Key.

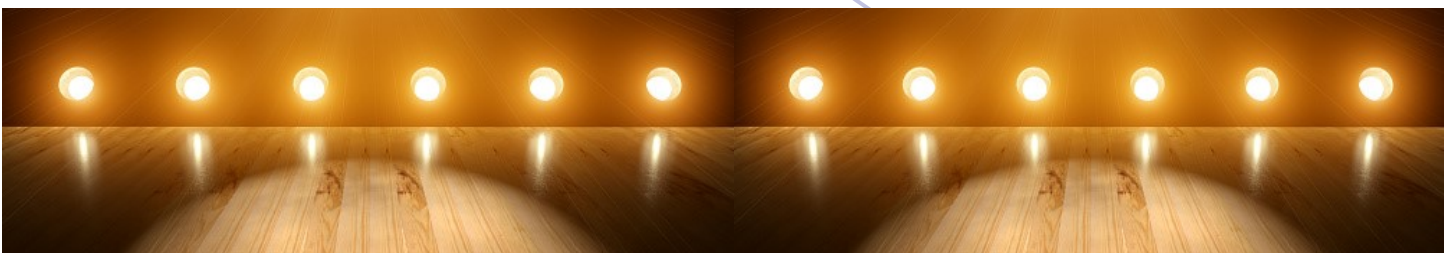
Karen's Interview With Sue - What does a life look like when you Say "Yes" more than you say "No"? Like other Soroptimist members, I'm always delighted when we're discussing some aspect of life and our own Sue Young speaks up – "I've done that!" I value curiosity and Sue must be filled to the brim.

Welder, military, nanny, substitute teacher, medical training, tissue collection with the Red Cross, Macy's Parade clown, and currently an attorney: I'm sure if Sue and I could have spent a little more time, drank a little more wine - I would have learned even more skills and accomplishments by Sue. She's traveled extensively, including living in Germany and traveling across Italy for 3 months – I am fascinated by her stories of her girls trips started by a childhood friend from Peoria and now attracts 100 women or more. Yes, Sue started out in Peoria and came full circle to Bloomington with stops in Germany, Colorado, Harlem, and Brooklyn.

Sue has a twin brother, Trenton and two older and one younger sisters. Her Mother saw something inside Sue and did what she could to give her the tools/opportunities to find her successes. Sue never had a doll growing up, but certainly had a chemistry set. She still loves books to this day and has adopted the Four Agreements to guide her journey.

1. Be impeccable with your words
2. Don't make assumptions
3. Don't take anything personal
4. Do your best

Sue feels grounded and wants to be an example and mentor to girls everywhere. I consider her an example and mentor to me. I am glad she has joined us.



2020 Charter Dinner - Evening of Stars



Pictured above (left to right);
Live Your Dream winners Heather
and Mary Beth and Virginia Wag-
ner first runner up, Demet

Below - SIBN President with new
SIBN members Sue, Diana and
Nancy.

Below - Award Winners Mary
Beth, Heather and Demet

Below (center) - Award judges,
winners, and guests.



Update from Live Your Dream Winner

Becky Mentzer

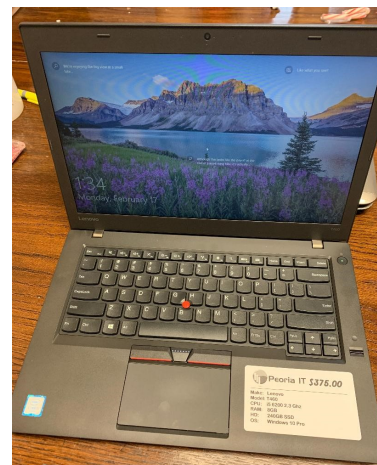
My brother who just happened to be here this weekend.. I mentioned to him that I was going to use some of the funds from award to secure a reliable computer that would get me thru all of school.. he made a couple quick suggestions, in no time at all we were on the phone with Peoria IT and they had a refurbished Lenovo think pad with Windows professional 10 in house — so within an hour from that call I was writing a check for this beauty you see in this pic:)



Then of course I need to get a lap top bag to keep it safe.. here's the pic of my cuuuute bag:

Thank you again for such a wonderful ending Sunday!! It was a true blessing in so many ways!!

Kindest regards,
Mary Beth



Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award

Sandy Groves

Twenty applications were distributed including 7 application requests from the SI Midwestern Region website. Ten completed applications were judged by Dorothy Kennett (retired ISU), Sandra Hupp (retired ISU), and Gena Glover (Heartland Community College).

Second Runner-Up (\$500) – Rebekah Baughman, Latham, IL is a second year senior at Emporia State University, Kansas majoring in micro and cellular biology. She plans to go on for her master's degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. Rebekah's check and certificate were mailed as she was unable to attend Charter Dinner

First Runner-Up (\$750) – Demet Yigitbilek, Normal, IL is a doctoral student at Illinois State University majoring in English Studies, specifically TESOL, Teaching English as a Second Language. She student taught for the English Language Institute at ISU and at Bloomington Jr. High. Demet previously had been an English Language instructor from her home country of Turkey prior to coming to ISU in 2017.

2020- SIBN Virginia Wagner Award Winner (\$1000): Kelsey Anderson, is a Social Work master's student at Illinois State. She previously was from Roselle, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor's in Social Work from ISU and has been employed by Children's Home and Aid in Bloomington. The Wagner Award will allow her to continue to work full-time as an Early Start Home Visitor while completing graduate school without having to acquire a second job. Her positions with Children Home and Aid have included being a CYFS Adoption Intern, a Foster Care Case Manager, and currently an Early Start Home Visitor. Kelsey was not able to be at the Charter Dinner due to sickness but received her award recently at Panera's. See picture.



Do you want to share information about an upcoming event?

Or do you have a great photo from a past event?

Email Brandi to add it to the next newsletter at bkimball13@yahoo.com





24th Annual International Women's Day Breakfast

Women Leading Change: A Century of Activism

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Eastland Suites Conference Center

Buffet Open at 8:30 a.m. * Program from 9-11 a.m.

Tickets \$30 or \$15 student

Table Sponsors \$275/8 guests

(includes sponsor recognition at table and in event program)

Reservations & Payment Required by February 28

Online via lwvmclean.org OR check payable to LWV and mailed in advance to

Diana Hauman, 48 Kenfield Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704-6295

Registration Questions? Call or text 309-838-1320



Calendar of Events

March 2 – Working Meeting, 5:30 pm @ Joanie Gullet's (2 Buckhurst Ct, Bloomington)

March 7– International Women's Day Breakfast

March 10 – Seeds of Change luncheon

March 14 – Soroptimist Planning, Training, Social and Brunch @ 10 am, Lina Wombacher's house

March 18 – Business Meeting, 11:30 am @ HyVee

March 31 – Governor's Club Award form due to Governor

April 6 – Working meeting at Lina Wombacher's, 5:30 p.m.

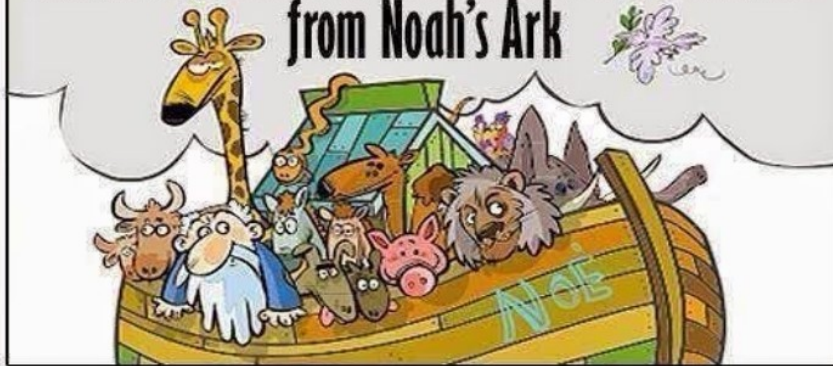
April 15 – Business Meeting @ HyVee, 11:30 a.m.

April 24-26 – Spring Conference, Ann Arbor, MI

July 18 – Lincoln Festival



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do some thing really big.
- 5 Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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