

## April 1

No meeting due to CO-VID 19 restrictions.

*We could meet via zoom; I have set up a link for those who want to meet up and see one another. This is not a required meeting, but I thought it would be nice to see some friendly faces and just touch base and connect.*

*April 1 from 5:30 PM until 8 PM*

<https://zoom.us/j/7038772293>

### April Birthdays

*April 3 – Misty Winkelman*

*April 13 – Meggin McNamara-Horn*

*April 17 – Jan Youwer*

*April 21 – Kathy Driefuerst*

*Please enjoy a treat at home with your housemates and stay safe. Happy birthday!*

## Midwestern Region

### Mission Statement

*Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

# April

# 2020



## Message from our President

### Out of my mind

I know, I know...cancelling the April Soroptimist meeting, Women' History and Spring Conference are probably the least of the disappointments/inconveniences of this current virus crisis. But, just let me say: ARGGH!

This is, as you all know, a week-to-week, month-to-month issue. We don't know when we can resume normal life. A few things can still be done, however. I urge you to send your Foundation Feminarum nominations to Linda as soon as possible. March 20 is the deadline, but if there are few nominations, the committee will accept late-comers for consideration. If you still need a nomination form, email me, please. Details were printed in last month's Beacon. While Spring Conference has been cancelled and 10 of us who were looking forward to attending are disappointed, some business that was to be conducted there is being done online. Governor's Reports (to be submitted by club presidents) are still due March 31. As Gov. Kris said, "Muahahaha! There's no escaping Soroptimist paperwork, ladies!" I am working on that now, mid-March, and I hope our reports will result in recognition for our club. Stay tuned.

### More hot topics

\*\* While nothing is certain right now, we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual rummage/bazaar in June, if possible. This is a good time to clean out that unneeded stuff that is cluttering up our homes.

\*\* Phil Passen, who was scheduled to present our Women's History program on March 19, is agreeing to reschedule when it's safe. "March of the Women" focuses on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of suffrage. It's too good and too relevant to miss.

\*\* Consider running for/accepting a nomination as an officer of this club for 2020-2022. Elections happen in May, by mail or email if need be.

\*\* Current committee chairs – please consider your committee's current budget and be ready to request more (or less) funding or other budget adjustments.

### And finally

Please keep in touch with each other. We are more than a club; we are sisters. The more house-bound we become, the more we need each other. I'm sending all of you virtual hugs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee".

Do you have any club expenses?



*Currently, our link to the treasury reimbursement form is not working, until we get it fixed our treasurer will have reimbursement forms by emailing our treasurer directly.  
evmzschnook4@aol.com*



[soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)  
[soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org)  
[simwr.org](http://simwr.org)

This is a copy of the email with direction we received from our Soroptimist office, in regard to CO VID 19

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March 19, 2020  
Philadelphia, PA

Dear SIA Members in the United States and Canada,

Thank you for your continued outreach for guidance during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Last Thursday, March 12, I wrote you: IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFECTION—IF YOU ARE IN NORTH AMERICA, JAPAN AND KOREA, YOU MUST POSTPONE OR CANCEL ALL CLUB EVENTS THROUGH AT LEAST APRIL 15. You should reassess this timing based on your local health and governmental authorities' recommendations.

In the United States, Sunday night, March 15, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reassessed this timing for us. The CDC recommends organizers postpone or cancel events of 50 or more people for the next eight weeks (estimated through May 11). The CDC defines gatherings as conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies.

U.S. President Trump is calling for all gatherings of 10 or more to cease. Some areas of the U.S. are moving to sheltering in place. In fact, any organization involved in delivering its services through public gatherings are suspending operations.

Because of these health and government recommendations, this communication supersedes my March 12 communication. April 15 is now May 11 until further notice. However, given today's latest information from our U.S. public health officials, I would plan an additional three weeks for good measure ... so June 1.

-cont'd below-

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Here are some important points to be aware of:

- If you are with a club located in the US or Canada, our club and region liability coverage does not cover communicable diseases. Holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIA headquarters (SIAHQ). You must postpone or cancel all club events at least through May 11<sup>th</sup>; June 1<sup>st</sup> for good measure.
- Your region leadership has received guidance from our General Legal Counsel regarding written agreements for region events and the use of “force majeure.” If your club is having challenges canceling or postponing an event due to the venue, contact your region leadership for assistance and guidance prior to investing in legal representation regarding your club contracts.
- Currently 20 of our 29 regions have canceled their region conferences and have been able to do so with the cooperation of their venue.
- Region leadership have received virtual options for sharing important information covered in their planned region conference.
- The timing of the 46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, WA, is being evaluated. The health and safety of all our convention attendees is our highest priority. Please keep checking the <https://www.soroptimist.org/> webpage for the most recent updates.
- SIAHQ employees have been outfitted to work remotely until further notice. While the situation continues to evolve, you can count on the fact we will continue to do our very best to support you during this time.

We encourage you to continue to educate yourself on the facts using recognized experts such as Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and local and national governmental official requirements.

We encourage you to take precautions with social distancing and good hygiene.

We encourage you to create new ways to communicate with your club members, your community, and your supporters. It is imperative our mission continues, and our communities and supporters know our Dream Programs will continue to provide the services they have come to expect and treasure.

We encourage you to rethink your club year in 2020—use this time to take planned activities in April, May and June and move them further out to a time when it becomes apparent group gatherings are allowed in our respective areas.

We are grateful for your continued demonstration of professionalism, dedication, and compassion as we work through these challenges together.

Continued best wishes to you, your families, and your communities for good health and resilience in the weeks to come.

With care and concern for you,



Elizabeth M. Lucas

Executive Director & CEO

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

# Greetings to Soroptimists

From: Dawn Nelson

Hello Soroptimist Friends! These are interesting times we are living in, but I continue to believe in the power of the human spirit! I am very excited to be a part of Soroptimists of Fond du Lac again. I am passionate that now, more than ever, women need to support each other and lift each other up.



The dynamic of being an American woman, contrasted with women from other countries I have had the privilege to read and learn about, is striking. There are tremendous differences in the challenges we face globally. If we are honest, it is almost impossible to grasp the struggle for independence or basic human needs that our sisters in other parts of the world face. However, that is why we are a part of this amazing organization, my friends!

They say diamonds are a girl's best friend. I am not referring to Color, Cut, Clarity or Carat, but in reflecting on my own vision for our group, I give you the 4 C's for the March Beacon...

Connection - We are all very busy with work, life, family, etc. I had an opportunity to spend a Trivia Night with Marjorie, Sabina and Diane a few weeks ago. I had barely met Diane or Marjorie before that night. It was so much fun to be a part of something that was raising money for Adult Literacy, testing my useless knowledge and getting to know three Soroptimist sisters better.

I urge all of you to try something different with a few of your Soropti-sisters! Yes, it is one more thing on your calendar, but there is nothing more powerful than the human connection. And you will have fun! I promise!

Chocolate Fantasy - I am pretty darn excited to be a co-chair with Dez Grin for the 2021 25th Anniversary of Chocolate Fantasy! Dez and I are planning a virtual meeting in the next month for anyone interested in being any part of any committee for Chocolate Fantasy. I STRONGLY encourage you to be a part of the first meeting! We have some really cool announcements about some changes planned that you will NOT want to miss! This is going to be our coolest, most fantastic Chocolate Fantasy in our 25-year history of Chocolate Fantasy! (I realize that if Renee is looking at this, there are too many exclamation points, but I really am excited.)

Covid-19 - You are tired of hearing about it. I am tired of hearing about it. It's not going away. Unfortunately, many things have been postponed and cancelled, including our next meeting. This is to prevent rampant spread of sickness (as you already know.) This, too, shall pass. Wash your hands, yadda, yadda, yadda. I am so thankful we live during a time when we have many virtual options and ways to communicate other than horse and passenger pigeon.

Community - One of the things I am most excited about as I look to Chocolate Fantasy is showcasing our amazing Fond du Lac Community! The things that are happening to revive the downtown area and create positivity are inspiring. I look at our Soroptimist group as a community, as well. There is power in community...power to build up, create change, show love and caring...when we continue to focus on our mission to help women and girls in our community and beyond.

I look forward to it with all of you!

# Chocolate Fantasy Update

From: Desiree 'dezzz' Grin and Dawn Nelson

As mentioned in Dawn's letter above, we are planning our next Soroptimist Chocolate Fantasy meeting for Tuesday, April 21 from 6 PM until 8 PM. Due to our current situation of no movement and suggested of no gatherings, we discussed meeting virtually. Dezzz has set up a zoom meeting link and here it is, <https://zoom.us/j/7038772293>

I will also include more directions in the Networking section. We were lucky enough to do a walk thru tour of the Retlaw on March 17. We are waiting to hear back on a few things to ensure that our event will flow well in that area (ensuring that vendors can sell their food, and ensuring that we can serve different chocolates and not infringe on the food rules that they have. We are also verifying that we will be able to provide food to our vendors through the generosity of our sponsor Domino's who brings them pizza. Once, we get the answers to these questions, we will be able to decide, and should we hear answers that we can work with we will go forward with the contract signing. The space is nice, and we are really looking forward to showcasing our community at this event. Plus, with everything going on, we know that doing all we can is what our club is about. We look forward to working with our club to host the 25<sup>th</sup> chocolate fantasy in Fond du Lac, WI. Special thanks to Jan Youwer for getting us this connection and option.

Go team Fond du Lac Soroptimists!

## Recipe Share

Dawn Nelson

April Virtual Menu - (just for fun)

Appetizer - Baked Brie with smoked walnuts and fig paired with fresh grapes and crisps

Bread - Fresh baked sesame sourdough and hearty honey wheat rolls

Salad - Roasted Vegetables lightly seasoned with olive oil, himalayan salt and pepper blend

Main Course - Your choice of Pad Thai with Tofu or Chicken

Dessert - Strawberry Shortcake with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream

## From Your Editor

From: Desiree 'dezzz' Grin

Hello sisters. What a world this has become. The importance of connection as humans is something that is required for continued joy and peace. With the onset of the coronavirus, it seems that finding a way to connect with those outside of our homes has taken a *virtual* turn. I have set up two zoom calls (April 1 for a general meetup, and April 21 for a Chocolate Fantasy planning meeting) so that we as a club can take some time to make a connection with one another. I realize that I have not asked for permission to do this, but I really wanted to offer a solution to our social distancing that may help some of us to feel connected. Please let's give this a try and see what we can do. I am willing to help anyone out ahead of time so that you can feel comfortable with using this platform. Please contact me and I'll make some time to help you out with familiarity. I have also included a direction sheet at the end of our newsletter to help with using zoom.

I also wanted to say that I spoke with our sister club in England, they are doing well and hunkering down for safety. They wish us well and were grateful that I reached out to them to check how they were doing. We are sisters, that is what we do. I really want to say that during this unsure time in our world, I am doing the best that I can to remain healthy. I know that I am so grateful to be a part of this club. Please keep reaching out to one another during this time. Now, more than ever, people need connections, and the definition of how we do that has been altered, but we can get through this.

As always please use this email for all correspondence related to the Beacon, [beaconeditorfdl@gmail.com](mailto:beaconeditorfdl@gmail.com) this includes anything that you would like to see published in an upcoming edition.

## Networking

April 1, Soroptimist virtual meeting via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7038772293>

April 21, Soroptimist Chocolate Fantasy Meeting via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7038772293>

## Some tips for using zoom.

### Before you join...

You will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone with a speaker or headphones. You will have the opportunity to check your audio immediately upon joining the meeting.

### To join the videoconference...

**On a computer...** at the start time of your meeting, go to the website [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). You do not have to have a zoom account to join a meeting. When you get to the zoom home page, click on the button in the upper right-hand corner that says join meeting, and enter the meeting code that is listed for each meeting (7038772293).

**From a smart phone or a tablet...**begin by downloading the zoom app to your device, open the app on your device and enter the meeting code into the spot that says Meeting ID (7038772293), click join to enter.

*I will also be including a zoom invitation to everyone on my email list from our club roughly 30 minutes before the start of each of our scheduled meetings.*

### The controls in the bottom of your zoom screen...

Mute/Unmute your microphone (far left)

Turn on/off camera (Start/Stop Video)

Invite other participants

View Participation list (if you click on this, it will open a pop-out screen, so you can see everyone who is on the meeting)

There will be an option to toggle between “speaker” and “gallery” view. “Speaker view” shows the active speaker.

“Gallery view” tiles all the meeting participants.

Feel free to call me directly and I'll do my best to connect you to the meeting. 262 707 0072