

DISTRICT IV

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

Important Dates

September 15, 2018:

Deadline for hotel registration for District II & IV Meeting.

October 5-6, 2018:

District I & III Meeting, Benton Harbor, MI

October 12-13, 2018:

District II & IV Meeting, Lima, Ohio

November 15, 2018:

Live Your Dream Applications due to Clubs.

Looking Ahead

December 15, 2018:

Live Your Dream club award winner due to District Director.

January 15, 2019:

Virginia Wagner Application due to clubs.

February 15, 2019:

Virginia Wagner club award winner due to District Director.

April 26-28, 2019:

Spring Conference at the Marriott Airport in Columbus, Ohio.



Rachel and her crew from SI Canton Stark County on the floor making fleece blankets at last year's district meeting.

District IV Update

Welcome to the new biennium. I am looking forward to working with all of you for another two years. As you begin your new club year, please send an updated roster, list of officers and chairs, budget, and by-laws to me. You should also send a copy to Governor Kris Armstrong (krisquin@msn.com) and Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt (dmerritt81@hotmail.com). We will be sending information directly to the club chairs.

We are also asking all our clubs to do a newsletter. It is a great way for members who miss meetings to know about club projects, upcoming events, speakers, and more. It also enables me to know what each club is doing. Please send a copy of the newsletter to me, secretary Abby, the region board, and Chris Speedie (crspeedie@sbcglobal.net). Chris posts them on our region website. Check out some of the other club's newsletters on www.simwr.org under the Members Only section.

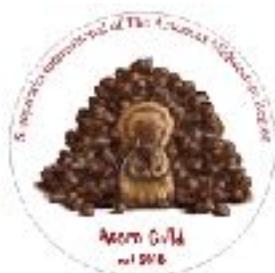
In Soroptimist Service,
Christine Fowler Shearer, District IV Director

Governor's Award Form

The Governor's Award Form has been revised for the 2018-2019 year. It is a tool and guideline to use as you plan your club year and work towards your goals. There is no longer a point system. Some clubs saw the previous form as a competition; others saw it as a motivation to improve from their previous year's programming. However your club views it, refer to it throughout the year instead of waiting until March to fill it out. Governor Kris requests that she receive them electronically instead of paper copies.

Acorn Guild

Have you seen Hildy the Acorn Guild squirrel? You can join the Acorn Guild by making a \$100 donation. Money from the Acorn Guild will support and finance the Dr. Virginia M. Wagner Award. When you join the Acorn Guild, you will receive a squirrel pin. Each year you donate, you will receive another token to show your support. We are working toward a three year capital campaign with the hope of raising a total of \$100,000. You can send your donation to Region Treasurer, Audrey Jarvis.



District II & IV Meeting

District II & IV will hold their meeting on October 12 and 13 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lima, Ohio again this year. The Call was sent out a few weeks ago and is available on the SIMWR website. Last year's fleece blanket project was so well received that we will be doing it again this year. We are asking every member attending to once again bring a minimum of two yards of fleece, but you can always bring more. Keep an eye out for sales on fleece at your local craft store.

Important Details for District Meeting

Here is a quick list of items you need to bring with you in October:

- 2 yards of fleece fabric per person.
- Scissors and tape measures.
- Items for Bag Lady Sales.
- Club basket valued at no more than \$25.
- Dollars (\$\$\$) for dollar raffle.
- Completed "Awards and Committee Chair" form.

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn and Suites Lima
803 S. Leonard Avenue, Lima, Ohio 45904
419.879.4000

Room reservations must be made by September 15.

Membership

At this time, Midwestern Region has 29 clubs. Our goal is to have 800 members at the end of the biennium. So you might be asking "How do we get to 800 members?" Of course, the quick answer is to charter more clubs, and we have been working on this over the past few years.

More importantly, however, is what we can do in our individual clubs. Retaining current members and gaining new members is also an effective way for us to increase our overall numbers. If your club is losing members on a regular basis, find out why. Is there something your club can do to make everyone feel they are an important and vital member for your club's success?

Upcoming District IV Club Meetings and Events

Aug. 22: SI Northeast Suburban Franklin Co.'s "Shop for a Cause" in Gahanna, Ohio

Sept. 4: SI Canton/Stark Co., SI Columbus & Franklin Co., and SI Mount Vernon & Knox Co. meetings.

Sept. 6: SI Zanesville meeting

Sept. 10: SI Northeast Suburban Franklin Co. meeting

Sept. 11: SI Fremont meeting

Sept. 29: SI Canton/Stark Co.'s Fall Fundraiser at La Pizzeria in Canton, Ohio

Club Chartering

A goal was set at last Spring Conference to charter a club in each of the states in the Midwestern Region. We are trying to establish clubs in Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio; Lexington, Kentucky, and Evansville, Indiana. We also recently chartered a new club in Detroit, Michigan. If you know of anyone who would be interested in learning more about Soroptimist in those areas, please let me know. There was also a discussion at the summer board meeting that a Best Practice would be to have each club in the region send \$100 to a newly chartered club so they will have some money to get started. While we are not making it mandatory, we are asking clubs to consider this.

There are a number of ways you can gain new members.

- Have a membership event and invite newcomers in the community.
- Read your newspapers to see who has received an honor, or who has opened a new shop or made a name for herself.
- Think of your stylist, doctor, store manager, bakery owner, new neighbor, church member, etc.
- Ask at your Chamber of Commerce for a list of women-run businesses.

Once you start thinking, the list is endless. It doesn't hurt to ask them to help with a service project and let them know how your club is involved. If you do hold a membership event, make sure you invite region board members.

Another way to create awareness about your club is to have business cards made for each of your members. When a member meets someone who expresses an interest, the business card would have all the information needed to learn more. It can include your club's contact information including e-mail address, club website, Midwestern Region website, and SIA website. This would enable potential members to learn all our Soroptimist. Reasonably priced business cards can be found at www.VistaPrint.com. There is also a template on www.soroptimist.org under Federation Information: Recognition and Branding Tools.



Soroptimist Midwestern Region Governor Vivian Walczesky, and Four Former Midwestern Region Governors at SI Mount Vernon and Knox County's 2018 Style Show. From left, Joan Stallard, Vivian Walczesky, Missie Austin, Vicky Hicks, and Cheryl Fouts.

Websites, Emails and Budgets

SIMWR.org

Please update your club's information on the website. Things that should be listed include your meeting days and times (i.e. first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.), your website address if you have one, your facebook and other social media pages. Be sure to update these regularly. Potential members who look at us want to see current information and projects. If you have a new group photo and updated information, send them directly to Chris Speedie at crspeedie@sbcglobal.net, and she will update the information.

Club E-Mails

Some clubs are having trouble accessing their club e-mails. It is essential that you check your club e-mail at least once a week. If it hasn't been used in awhile, there is a good chance it has been closed. Please contact headquarters for them to talk you through accessing it. Club e-mail should be checked by the president or treasurer. **We will be sending all region information through the club e-mails.**

As of January 9, members needed a new password to login to the SIA website (soroptimist.org). An email was sent explaining how to change your password. Specifically, the email stated: All members and clubs must change their passwords to include at least 7 characters including one letter and one number. If you have any questions or problems with the login process, please contact SIA membership services assistants at siahq@soroptimist.org or 215.893.9000.

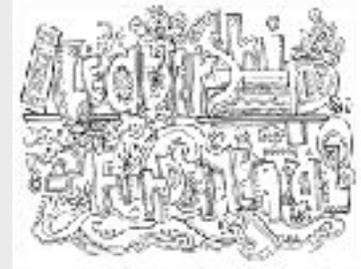
Budgets

Just a reminder that when you set your club budget, be sure to follow our mission. Use your club's money to support women and girls. Look at this year's figures from your fundraisers to predict how much your club will be able to award a Live Your Dream or Virginia Wagner winner. A budget is a guideline. Be sure to plan for Club Giving in your budgets—10% of your fundraising profit.

Best practices for finances include:

- keeping money in one account
- using up to 25% of fundraising income for club administration
- audit your financial records yearly with at least three members, or seek outside assistance.

Coloring Contest



Our incoming biennium theme is Leadership is Fundamental. In thinking about how to encourage leadership behaviors, Governor Kris wants to make sure that learning is fun(damental). She also wants to encourage members to be creative, show courage and be passionate about the work we do. For this exercise, creativity comes with coloring choices and the things you think about while doing it; courage is having the guts to share your finished product and acting on the thoughts you had while working in it; passion will be shown not just by having fun with this little project, but by thinking about Soroptimist when you're doing it.

We hope that you'll download a copy and have fun! Share your results with your club and with MWR on social media. The page is available for download on the MWR website.

SIA's Diamond Campaign

Soroptimist International of the Americas is launching a new campaign. The Diamond Campaign is a multi-year campaign to strengthen SIA's membership base as we approach Soroptimist's 100th anniversary. The first year of the campaign will run from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

Through the Diamond Campaign we will ensure the future of Soroptimist, and our legacy will shine on as we carry our mission forward. By growing our membership, it becomes possible for us to deliver our brand-unifying Dream Programs. That brings us closer to our Big Goal to reach even more women and girls who face obstacles.

In this campaign, every club and region will work toward a unified membership goal. By doing this, we will be focused, dedicated, and stronger than ever!

2018-2020 Midwestern Region Board Culture

Challenge yourself to make a difference. Be intentional, be strong, be bold — be a Soroptimist.

— *Kris Armstrong, SIMWR Governor*

Our new Governor has set some guidelines and standards for the board members and by extension all Soroptimist's to follow. These are the behaviors we have identified that will create and reinforce the culture and climate that we aspire to attain.

1. 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. A good team/family gets a lot done while enjoying working together towards a common goal. We want everyone to succeed.
2. 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



Rachel Yost (SI Canton/Stark Co.) and Linda Alpers (SI Northeast Suburban Franklin Co.) at Spring Conference.

Spring Conference 2019

The 2019 Midwestern Region Spring Conference will be held April 26-28 at the Marriott Airport in Columbus, Ohio. Conference is always one of my favorite times of the year as I get to catch up with my Soroptimist sisters and meet new members. If you have not attended before, or even if it has been awhile since your last conference, please consider attending.



Contact Information for News Updates

Region Website:
Chris Speedie
(crspeedie@sbcglobal.net)—
edits, events, updated
information

District IV Newsletter:
Christine Fowler Shearer
(FowlerArtistic@gmail.com)—
articles, information, pictures

Vision (MWR Newsletter):
Carrie Blankenship
(karrieb40@gmail.com)—
send information by the
28th of each month

District IV Contact Information

Christine Fowler Shearer,
District IV Director
Cell: 216.408.4124
E-mail:
FowlerArtistic@gmail.com

Abby Bouton,
District IV Secretary
Cell: 614.285.8212
E-mail:
abbouton@yahoo.com



validate whether or not it will work. We strive to prevent swirl, and we support decisions as a team.

3. Embracing 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.

4. Starting simple, always learning and 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.

2018-2020 Midwestern Region Board



Front Row L to R: Region Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt; Region Governor Kris Armstrong; D1 Secretary Connie Gindt; Region Secretary Missie Austin
Back Row L to R: D3 Secretary Lata Shastri; D4 Director Christine Fowler Shearer; D3 Director Mary Pilon; Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey; D1 Director Susan Frankel; D2 Director Barb Flory; D2 Secretary Jenny Prater; D4 Secretary Abby Bouton

