

The Vision

February
2020
Edition



Governor's Message

Winter (still) Greetings

Yes, it's still Winter but Spring is nigh. The reason I know this is that in addition to typing this column, I have five tabs open for Spring Conference documents. Many of us have been working for months on the foundation for this event, and I couldn't be more pleased with how it's worked out. The Call will be available online February 1st and there are a number of action items for you to complete.

I'm hoping for a big crowd in Ann Arbor because it's going to be different than any other Midwestern Region Conference that you've attended. Our Keynote Speaker on Friday night is Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. We'll have another speaker on Saturday morning, Dr. Nina Smart, to talk to us about FGM. And on Saturday afternoon, forget another round of workshops, we're hosting a panel discussion that includes Dr. Smart; Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy, Beverly Bucur, and Soroptimist International President, Sharon Fisher. The panel will discuss President's Appeal: The Road to Equality and will be moderated by former Governors Vicky Hicks and Vivian Walczesky. On top of all of that, it's an election year! The new board, led by Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt, will be installed. Plus, we will be presenting Club Awards, special Governor's Awards and the usual shenanigans.

About the elections, I received a question about what the Governor actually does, and it's a fair question. The job is often administrative in nature, so much so that you don't feel like a leader as much as you feel like a glorified information booth. Or, at least that's how I feel about it. So how do you lead when your job is to fill out forms? The answer is – you start small. Responding to a call, email or social media post from a member can seem like a small thing, right? One more thing to check off of your to-do list. If you think that's the answer, then being Governor is not for you. Interacting with other members is the most important thing that a Governor does. I'll be sharing some thoughts on Leadership during my State of The Region speech at Spring Conference – hope to see you there.



Kris Armstrong,
Midwestern Region Governor



In This Issue

Articles from
SI of:

- ◆ Bloomington-Normal
- ◆ Chicago
- ◆ Cleveland
- ◆ Dayton
- ◆ Downriver Area
- ◆ Flatrock
- ◆ Fond du Lac
- ◆ Freemont
- ◆ Greater Macomb
- ◆ Grosse Pointe
- ◆ Illiana
- ◆ Middletown
- ◆ Milwaukee
- ◆ Mt. Vernon & Knox Co.
- ◆ Monroe
- ◆ NE Suburban Franklin County

Important Dates for 2020

February 1

Club LYD Report due to District Director

February 15

Virginia Wagner Club Award winners due to District Director

February 15

Region LYD winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair



VISION: Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

MISSION: Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

TAG LINE: Investing in Dreams

SIA's refined vision, mission and tag line statements.



Save the Date
Spring Conference 2020
April 24, 25, & 26
Kensington Hotel Ann Arbor MI

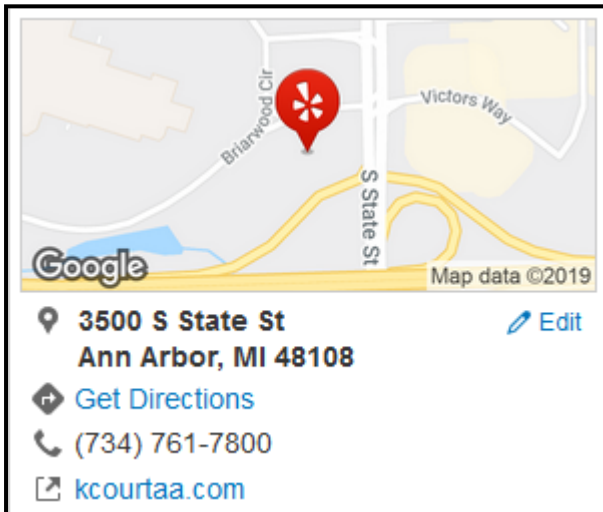
Educate to Empower

Darcy Merritt
Installed as Governor of the
Midwestern Region

SCROPTIMIST
Best for Women

SCROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
MIDWESTERN REGION

The poster features a blue sky background with a row of silhouettes of women holding hands at the bottom. It includes the Scroptimist logo, the event title, dates, location, and a circular logo for the Scroptimist International Midwestern Region.



3500 S State St
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

(734) 761-7800

kcourtaa.com

The map shows the location of the Kensington Hotel at the intersection of S State St and Victors Way. It includes a red location pin, the Google logo, and contact information.



**MORE INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW**

**Helping women and girls
live their dreams**

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

January was taken with finalizing our Award winners, and we're looking forward to those presentations on April 16 at our 75th Diamond Anniversary Party/Awards Banquet. It will be held at the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township. Our keynote speaker will be Midwestern Region Past Governor and District III's own Vivian Walczesky.

In addition, we used funds we had collected to donate gift cards to [Alabaster Gift](#), Macomb County's drop-in shelter for Human Trafficking survivors as well as people still being trafficked. We collected the money at our Christmas party in lieu of exchanging gifts.



THE ALABASTER GIFT

On the 20th of January, Mona Clugh and Bev Todd were interviewed by Rebecca Calappi for Macomb Now magazine. Macomb Now is a quarterly publication similar to Detroit's Hour Magazine. The Spring edition will concentrate on women, and they decided to include a profile of our club. We are very excited about being highlighted.



Also, Tuesday, Jan 27 three or four of our members attended Michigan Abolitionist Project's 2020 Roundtable which is co-sponsored by the [Joseph Project](#). We have had Joseph Project's founder and CEO speak at a program meeting, and their COO, Kristy, is nominated for our 2020 Ruby Award.



Plans are ongoing for our March 7th Dream It Be It event, again in collaboration with local 4H Club, to be held in Mt. Clemens.

Moving into the 21st century a number of our most recent members are busy updating our website, plus looking into PayPal, Twitter, Instagram and who knows what else?

Soroptimist International of Chicago



JoAnne Klein took part with 10,000 other people to walk in the Chicago Women's March on January 18. Each block had a theme..census, climate control, gun violence prevention, health care access, and encouraging voting. Mayor Lightfoot talked about gender equality and building a better and stronger world.

Soroptimist International of Milwaukee



Some members of SI Milwaukee gather round the new banner presented to the club as a gift by President Monica Phillip during the November meeting. The banner displays Soroptimist International's new logo, the stylized "S" and dot. From left are Aggie Ressel, Avis Haasch, President Monica Phillip, Jean Rabe, Myrna Collins, Aundrea Price and Kathy Endrizzi. (Photo by Tim Bailey)

Unlock the potential of women and girls

Soroptimist International of Fond du Lac

History event: Winning the Vote

Next up on SI Fond du Lac's calendar is a women's history program, "March of the Women: Music for the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage." The suffrage story is traced in music and poetry by a Chicago-area musician who sings and accompanies himself on the hammered dulcimer.

The program, set for two performances on Thursday, March 19, is offered as part of the Fond du Lac Public Library's "History at Home" series. It is free and open to the public. Soroptimists will host the event, provide refreshments and talk about Soroptimist and its mission.



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We just saw history. Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment – crossing the three-fourths threshold of support required from the states. Now we need Congress to remove the deadline so the ERA can become a permanent part of the U.S. Constitution. When the ERA passed Congress in 1972, lawmakers attached a 1977 ratification deadline to it, which they later extended to 1982. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter to the United States Congress urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA.

Thank you to the many League volunteers who have worked tirelessly for ratification in their states—and who continued to push for ratification even after the deadline passed. Now that the ERA has been ratified, we will not stop fighting for equality under the law and pushing to see the ERA become the next amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Women have waited decades to see the ERA pass, and this is the perfect way to kick off 2020, a year that celebrates 100 years of women's voting rights. It's time for Congress to remove the ERA deadline and make this dream a reality!

Chris Carson

Chris Carson
President
League of Women Voters

Soroptimist International of SIA

Public Awareness

#SoroptimistsAtWork Photos

We recently launched a [#SoroptimistsAtWork](#) social media campaign asking to share photos on social media of your club members having a great time. You can read more [details](#) about this membership campaign on Facebook. Here are a few simple tips for creating compelling, engaging and meaningful pictures:

- Take close ups—try to stay away from large group shots.
- Show members in action—having fun!
- Make sure the lighting is good—we want to see your faces.
- Steer clear of a distracting background—we want YOU to be the focus.
- Take multiple pictures then decide which one is best to share—don't you hate when you take a picture then later realize someone's eyes are closed?

We look forward to receiving your pictures for the campaign by May 31. Please keep these tips in mind when sharing photos on your own social media pages and promoting your club projects.

Soroptimist International of Dayton

Human Traffic Awareness



Great News – The Community Outreach to Runaway Youth (CORY) Project has located all eight of the missing teens featured on the posters distributed in November/December 2019. Our next distribution will be in March. The club has also rolled out the Stop Human Trafficking Rest Room Sticker Program. This program is intended to reach out to victims of human trafficking and those who know something about a trafficking situation. Additionally, the sticker helps build awareness that Human Trafficking is a problem throughout our community. The label is placed on the inside of the rest room door. The victim or witness can discreetly take one of the eight perforated tear-off tags containing the national human trafficking hotline numbers. This can be hidden and used to call or text for help when safe to do so. The sticker is removable and leaves no residue when peeled off. It was developed and produced by the Michigan Abolitionist Project and is copyrighted. Our annual planning retreat is scheduled for mid-February.

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Soroptimist International of Monroe



It Happens in **Your** Zip Code

2020 Human Trafficking Conference

Date: Saturday April 18th, 2020

Time: 7:30am –1:00pm

Location: Monroe County Intermediate School District (ISD)
101 S. Raisinville Rd. Monroe, MI

Speakers:

Dr. Celia Williamson PhD MSW - University of Toledo

Director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute

D/Sergeant Gerald Yott- Michigan State Police -

Computer Crimes Unit

Protecting Children in a Digital World

Cost: \$40.00 early registration (before March 1st 2020)
\$50.00 after March 1st 2020 Students \$10.00

Register at: Register on Classy @

<https://give.classy.org/Knowhumantraffickingconference>

Survivor and Author:

Lockey Maisonneuve

Book: A Girl Raised By Wolves

(Available for purchase)

Sponsored by: The Monroe County Anti Human Trafficking Coalition

FB @ MonroeAntihumanTraffickingCoalition

Twitter @mahtc.michigan@gmail.com email: mahtc.michigan@gmail.com

For more information and to register for this event click the link below
<https://www.classy.org/event/2020-human-trafficking-conference/e256180>

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) | Text 233733 | Live Chat

How Michigan State Police Are Fighting Human Trafficking

MSP is working to educate motorists about the signs of human trafficking and to enforce laws that crack down on traffickers. Here's how.

By [Jessica Strachan, Patch Staff](#)



During National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Michigan State Police (MSP) motor carrier officers are teaming up with officers from neighboring states to raise awareness of human trafficking. (Michigan State Police)

MICHIGAN — During National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Michigan State Police (MSP) motor carrier officers are teaming up with officers from neighboring states to raise awareness of human trafficking.

From Jan. 13-17, officers will join with their colleagues in the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Illinois State Police, and Indiana State Police, along with the organization Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) to educate motorists about the signs of human trafficking and to enforce laws that crack down on traffickers.

"We are striving to raise awareness and educate those individuals in positions to observe human trafficking taking place, such as commercial motor vehicle drivers, public transportation companies, rest area attendants and truck stop employees," said Capt. Michael Krumm, commander of the MSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. "You are a force multiplier that can act as the eyes and ears of Michigan's highways."

The MSP first partnered with TAT in 2015 and has since been recognized as a national leader in human trafficking awareness and education. For more information about TAT, visit truckersagainstrafficking.org.

To report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resources Center at [888-373-7888](tel:888-373-7888) or text BeFree to 233733.

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) | Text 233733 | Live Chat

Soroptimist International Of Fond du Lac



Fantastic Chocolate Fantasy

For SI Fond du Lac, another successful Chocolate Fantasy is in the history book. The annual end-of-January celebration of all things chocolate – our 24th year – drew an audience of nearly 400 who sampled desserts, candies, beverages and many other treats from 20 area vendors.

The highlight of the event was the drawing for many great prizes, including a spectacular gold and diamond ring designed, crafted and donated by a local goldsmith. The ring is valued at \$7,500. Other prizes in silent auctions and raffles included weekend-get-aways, dine-around packages, wine-and-cheese for a year, a mini fridge and , of course, 45 theme baskets. A main recipient of the day's profits is the local *Girls on the Run*, an organization that inspires middle school girls to be joyful, healthy, active and confident.

When this project was launched in 1996, the club's goal was "let's just break even." Today, net proceeds support all of our charitable giving, including Live Your Dream and Dr. Virginia Wagner awards.



Soroptimist International Of Bloomington-Normal

Women Build Bunco Fundraiser Jen Ho SIBN participated in the 3rd annual Bunco Blitz for [Women Build of Habitat for Humanity](#) in October. Twelve SIBN members and their friends were in attendance to throw the dice and holler Bun-co! Additionally, SIBN donated a \$40 gift certificate for the annual gift wrap for charity and SIBN member Joan Gullett donated a basket of Mary Kay cosmetics. The fundraiser raised \$10,889 to enable women



to build a Habitat for Humanity house in 2020. This will be the 16th house in the history of McLean County!



Soroptimist International Of Freemont

Soroptimist
QUARTER
Mania

Thursday, February 6

6pm-8pm

Anjulina's Catering & Banquet Hall

**\$5 per person includes paddle & \$1 for
each additional paddle**

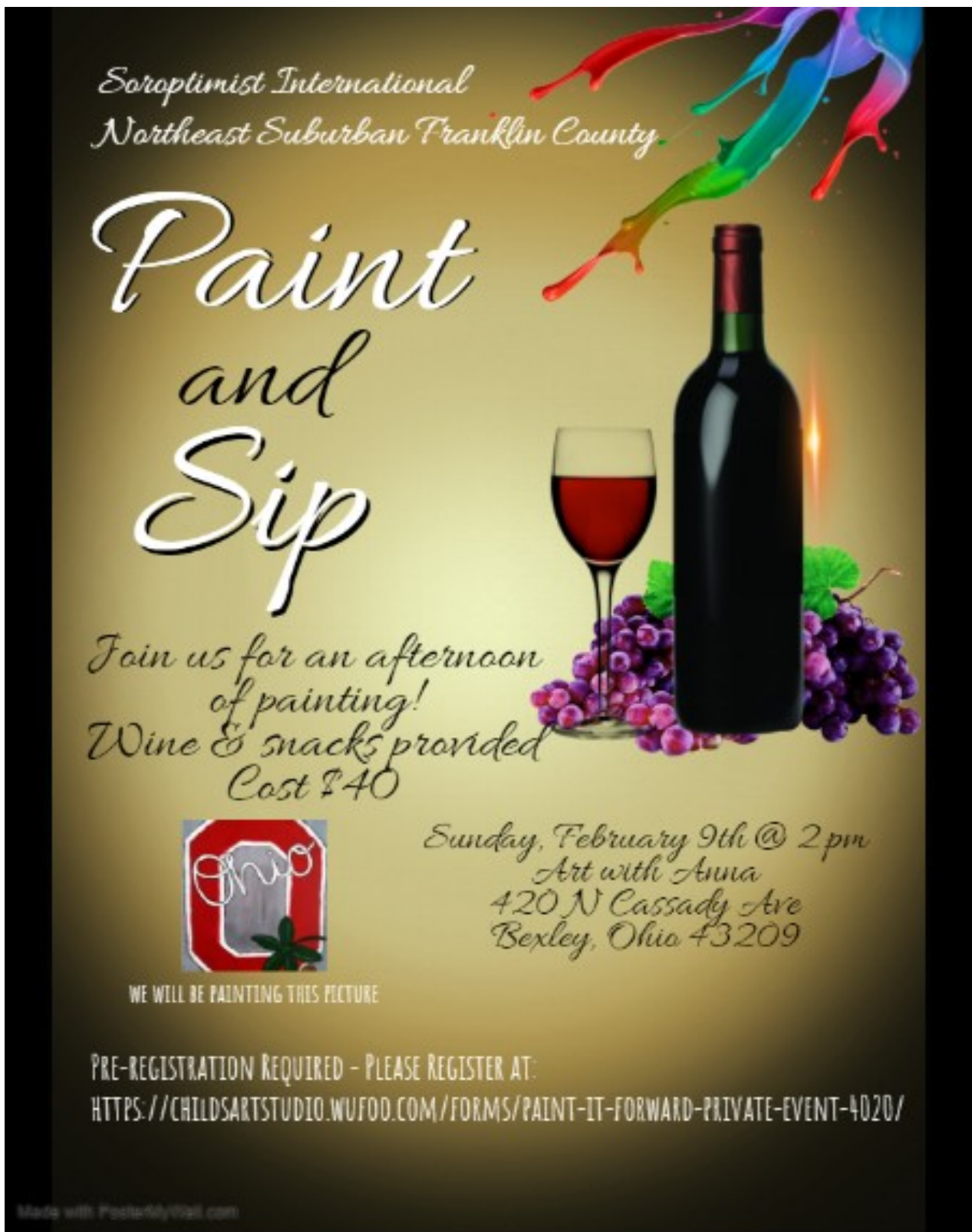
Designer Purses, Prizes, Bingo & Fun Fun Fun

VENDORS: To Be Determined - Stay Tuned.

Cash Refreshments provided by Anjulina's

Proceeds benefit Soroptimist Scholarships to Sandusky County Girls & Women


Soroptimist International Of Northeast Suburban Franklin County



*Soroptimist International
Northeast Suburban Franklin County*

Paint and Sip

*Join us for an afternoon
of painting!
Wine & snacks provided
Cost \$40*



*Sunday, February 9th @ 2pm
Art with Anna
420 N Cassady Ave
Bexley, Ohio 43209*

WE WILL BE PAINTING THIS PICTURE

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED - PLEASE REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://CHILDSARTSTUDIO.WUFOD.COM/FORMS/PAINT-IT-FORWARD-PRIVATE-EVENT-4020/](https://childsartstudio.wufod.com/forms/paint-it-forward-private-event-4020/)

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®



**Join us for a Wine Tasting and Accessory Sale
and
Evening of friendship and information about
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GROSSE POINTE**

website: grossepointesoroptimist.org

If you are interested in supporting and helping women in the community and around the world, this is an opportunity for you to meet the dynamic women of SIGP and take a look at SOROPTIMIST projects at local, national and international levels.

Take part in the Accessory Sale during the wine tasting...bring new or gently used items (jewelry, scarves, purses, belts, surprises) Something you no longer want may become a treasure to someone else!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Home of
Ross Braun
515 Middlesex
Grosse Pointe Park, MI48230

**Bring a favorite bottle of wine to share.
Members please bring an appetizer or dessert to pass and
2 bottles of wine so we can include 1 in our free raffle!**

RSVP by Monday, February 24th to Ross Braun at
braunross@aol.com

Soroptimist International Of Flat Rock



The Soroptimist International of the Flat Rock Area

FASHION SHOW

featuring



THURSDAY

March 26, 2020

CRYSTAL GARDENS

16703 Fort St.

Southgate

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:15 pm — Fashion Show at 7:00 pm

Tickets \$40 pp — Includes Dinner & Fashion Show — Cash Bar Available

For Tickets go online: <http://sifra.brownpapertickets.com>

or purchase at these locations:

Traffic Jam Boutique, 3019 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, 734-285-9029

Porter & Clark Chiropractic, 29100 Gateway, Ste 100, 734-379-9200

Corporate Sponsorships Available

Silent Auction, Raffles & High Energy Fashions!

Educate to Empower!



Proceeds to benefit our Educational Award Winners and Local Charities.
Learn more at soroptimist.org and join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 6p at
Big Bear Lodge, Flat Rock.

Soroptimist International Of Mount Vernon & Knox County

Soroptimist International Of Downriver Area

Step into Spring Style Show April 4



**Co-Producers Diana Oswalt,
Chris Kompton**

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 am

Individual Tickets: \$25

Corporate Tickets: \$250

*8 tickets includes prime
seating and favors*

GALLAGHER CENTRE

Ohio Eastern Star Home

1451 Gambier Road

Mount Vernon

LUNAFEST, the fundraising film festival dedicated to championing women filmmakers and bringing women together in their communities, will be hosted by Soroptimist International of Downriver at The Catherine Daly Theater in Wyandotte, MI March 27 and 28, 2020. The Soroptimist Club has partnered with The Downriver Actor's Guild in a joint fundraiser.

This unique film festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through seven short films by women filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, body image, relationships, cultural diversity and breaking barriers.

All proceeds from LUNAFEST will benefit Soroptimist Programs, Downriver Actors Guild and Chicken & Egg Pictures, a nonprofit organization that supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. Thus far, LUNAFEST, which is created and funded by LUNA®, The Whole Nutrition Bar, has raised more than \$5 Million for nonprofit organizations across the US and Canada.

The event begins on Friday, March 27 with a red-carpet reception and viewing. Tickets to the reception are \$25 each and include food, raffles and door prizes prior to the viewing. The after glow party's location is to be announced. Two general viewings are scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Tickets to Saturday's viewings are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

The club is currently looking for additional sponsors and in-kind donations to make the event a big success! For more information please contact the club at Lunafest.wyandotte@gmail.com

Ways You Can Help

We all have unique gifts to share with the communities who need it most. By empowering women and girls through access to education and training, the lives of individuals, families, and whole communities can be improved.

Soroptimist International Of Cleveland

Welcome to 2020.

- ◆ Our vision is bright for this year and we are excited to start off the year strong. Our very first fundraiser that will give one LYD award is already on its way. We paired this with Super Bowl LIV and sold **Super Bowl Squares**. Lauren Rudman did an amazing job organizing this and selling them all out with more than one week to go! We are able to provide one \$1,000 award.
- ◆ Within the same weekend on January 30th we are doing our shopping at Fetch as they have asked us to be their January Peace Project non-profit. 10% of Peace project sales in January will go directly to our club.
- ◆ Our next membership event is on 2/12 at Laura's Home. Laura's Home is for women and children and offers specialized, wraparound services designed to empower [families](#) and [individuals](#) to live healthy lives.
- ◆ Save the date for our 2nd annual golf outing scheduled for Friday September 11th at Bunker Hill in Medina. Last year we raised over \$6000 for our club with very minimal turnaround time. This year we are hoping to raise even more.

As you can see we are off to a great start in 2020 and we don't plan on slowing down.



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

Governor Kris Armstrong

SI Bloomington Normal

Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt

SI Monroe County

Region Secretary Missie Austin

SI Kenton Hardin Co

Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey

SI Fond du Lac

District I Director Susan Frankel

SI Fond du Lac

District I Secretary Connie Gindt

SI Fond du Lac

District II Director Barb Flory

SI Middletown

District II Secretary Jennifer Prater

SI Hancock County

District III Director Mary Pilon

SI Wyandotte Southgate Taylor

District III Secretary Lata Shastri

SI Wyandotte-Southgate-Taylor

District IV Director Chris Fowler Shearer

SI Canton/Stark County

District IV Secretary Abby Bouton

SI Columbus & Franklin County

CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!

WWW.SIMWR.ORG



Editor for The Vision
Karrie Blankenship
SI Grosse Pointe
karrieb40@gmail.com

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



Standing: Christine Shearer, Jenny Prater, Barb Flory, Susan Frankel,
Connie Gindt, Mary Pilon, Lata Shastri, Abby Bouton
Seated: Missie Austin, Kris Armstrong, Darcy Merritt, Audrey Jarvey

Connections for the 2018–2020 Midwestern Board

Emails Contacts

Governor-Kris Armstrong - (krisquin@msn.com)

Governor Elect -Darcy Merritt - (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)

Secretary - Missie Austin - (missieaustin@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - (audreyjarv@gmail.com)

Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahq@soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)

Soroptimist Summary (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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Email: abbouton@yahoo.com

MIDWESTERN REGION 2020

January 10-12	Winter Board Meeting - Time and Place TBD
January 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in the US
January 15	Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Clubs
January 15	District Live Your Dream Award Winner due to Region Chair
January 18-20	MWR Winter Board Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana
February 1	Club Live Your Dream Report due to District Director
February 15	Virginia Wagner Club Award winners due to District Director
February 15	Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair
March 1	Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ
March 8	International Women’s Day
March 8	Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair
March 15	Award Report due from District Directors to Governor Elect Darcy
March 31	Region Virginia Wagner Award Winners names to Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair
March 31	Governor’s Award Form due to Governor Kris Armstrong
April 23 & 24	MWR Board Meeting Kensington Hotel - Ann Arbor, MI
April 24 - 26	2019 Spring Conference Kensington Hotel - Ann Arbor, MI
May 31	Club Giving and Founders Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020 recognition
June 1	Dream It, Be It Online Club Reporting due to SIA
July 1	Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong
July 10-12	MWR Summer Board Meeting, Location TBD
July 22 - 25	SIA 46 th Biennial Convention- Bellevue, WA
July 26 – 27	Governors Roundtable – Bellevue, WA