



# Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

**JULY  
2019  
Edition**

# The Vision

## 2019 Date to Remember

### SIA CONVENTION

- July 22-25, 2020  
Bellevue, WA

## In This Issue

Articles from  
SI of:

Canton/Stark  
County

Cleveland

SI-Fond du Lac

Greater Macomb

Grosse Pointe

Lucas County

Middletown

Monroe

Trenton

Wyandotte,  
Southgate,  
Taylor

Zanesville

## Governor's Message



Hello Midwesterners and  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of our Soroptimist year and your membership dues should be in to SIA and the region. The region board is meeting in a few weeks and we'll have some actionable items for you to review, so look for that in next month's Vision and on social media.



Governor-Elect Darcy and I just returned from Governors Roundtable which was held at the Omni Mont Royal in Montreal. This was the first GRT for Darcy and the third, and final meeting for me. At the recognition and celebration dinner on Saturday night, I was super excited to accept the Honorable Mention / Runner-up Celebrating Success Award for Public Awareness on behalf of the Fremont Club – Congratulations and well done! The actual working meeting was held on Sunday and Monday from 9-5, and they were some long days but worth it. Here are a few of my takeaways:

Fundraising - Club Giving is important. 10% Club Giving is even more important. Please remember to put line items in your club's budget for this and for Founders Pennies. Here's a number that surprised me – only 4% of Soroptimists have joined the Laurel Society. I know it can be tiresome to be asked to open your checkbook one more time, but have you considered making Soroptimist your charity of choice? Same goes for the Acorn Guild. Monthly giving to Laurel Society is super easy to set up, so if you're interested, please contact MWR Chair Patricia Cavell or myself.

Membership –Midwestern Region reached our membership goals! Woohoo! Special congratulations to our two newest clubs, Tri-State and Cleveland for chartering since January. I also want to thank the clubs that climbed out of low membership and the clubs who are working on doing so. It's a struggle, but so worth it. FYI, we just learned that our clubs in Grosse Pointe and Dayton won \$500 each in a random drawing of all 174 Diamond Campaign Phase 1 clubs. We all put a lot of effort into reaching our goal, so kudos to all of us and a shout out to Region Membership Chair, Roseanne Horne – great job!

Public Awareness – As noted above, kudos are due to Fremont for their Public Awareness efforts. I'm seeing lots of social media posts from around the region, keep up the good work. We need to work on our membership pin strategy – yes, pin strategy. We should all be switched over to the S pin instead of the Laurel Lady pin as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Members need new pins and all of the MWR officers do too. We're going to discuss this at board meeting and we'll let you know what we come up with. If you're reading this (and you better be), thank Karrie Blankenship, Region PA Chair, for putting everything together along with help from our webmaster, Chris Speedie.

Last but not least – Program. Governor-Elect Darcy is the Region Program Chair. This means that she provides direction and oversight of all of our programs: Live Your Dream, the Wagner Award and Dream It Be It. Being Governor-Elect and Program Chair is a lot of work, but it's great preparation for being Governor. With that being said, it's important that we all read directions and get things done before deadlines or else her job becomes much more difficult. The Live Your Dream application portal opens August 1<sup>st</sup>, so please make sure to check on it once a week. If you have any questions, please reach out to LYD Chair, Lynn High. The Wagner Award application will be updated and be made available around the same time – stay tuned for details – you can always contact Region Chair, Denise Wartgow for info. That leaves us with DIBI. Honestly, we've not

## The Vision

adopted this program as quickly as I thought we would. Not only is this a great program for the girls in your communities, it's a great way to find members who want to support our mission of improving the lives of women and girls. If your club has not started a DIBI program yet, please contact Ruth Waggoner, Midwestern Region Chair, for more information.

I'd planned to keep this short but I've now rambled on for more than 700 words and haven't finished, because there is one more thing. I was asked to look into the possibility of bringing back the Life Member category, so we talked about the subject in Montreal. Consensus is that we cannot afford it, given our large population of Baby Boomers who qualify or will soon qualify for the distinction. Previously, once you reached the requirements, you could become a Life Member, which meant that your dues would be lowered but you also lost the opportunity to be a voting member. Many of our members did not take on the title because they wanted to continue to vote. Personally, I like the idea of identifying our members who have made a lifelong commitment to Soroptimist. I'm continuing to noodle on the subject and invite you to do so as well. Additionally, we will be discussing this at our board meeting.

We are all in this together, young or old, new or seasoned. Catch your breath this month and prepare to go forth and do Soroptimist. I'm excited to lead you in this last year of the biennium and look forward to all of the great things that we'll accomplish together.

**Kris Armstrong**  
**Midwestern Region Governor**

# Helping women and girls live their dreams



## Membership



## Membership Article for Vision: Submitted by Roseanne Horne, Midwestern Region Membership Chair

### CONGRATULATIONS MIDWEST REGION:

The results of the Membership Diamond Campaign have been announced and the Midwest Region has a lot to celebrate!

**On the Regional level:** Our Midwestern REGION is one of only 2 of the 15 regions in the United States that met the Phase 1 diamond campaign goals for the region. We are also one of only 8 regions in SIA (Soroptimist International of the Americas) to reach the Phase One Goal of having -1% or better net change in membership.

Our Goal was to have at least 767 members by May 31, 2019 and we ended up with 768! See chart below.

### Region Results at End of Phase 1 - % Net Change

June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019

GOAL by May 31, 2019: -1% or better

Total Member Goal

Region	TOTAL Members 5/31/2018	TOTAL Members 5/31/19	Net Change	5/31/2019
Northeastern Region	230	218	-5.20%	228
North Atlantic Region	1,312	1,279	-2.50%	1,299
Central East Coast Region	485	445	-8.20%	480
Southern Region	429	433	0.90%	425
Midwestern Region	775	768	-0.90%	767
South Central Region	894	864	-3.40%	885
North Central Region	234	223	-4.70%	232
Rocky Mountain Region	563	541	-3.90%	557
Northwestern Region	2,523	2,496	-1.10%	2,498
Camino Real Region	729	705	-3.30%	722
Desert Coast Region	1,038	995	-4.10%	1,028
Golden West Region	991	944	-4.70%	981
Founder Region	1,492	1,471	-1.40%	1,477
Sierra Nevada Region	1,577	1,520	-3.60%	1,561
Sierra Pacific Region	998	947	-5.10%	988
Eastern Canada Region	255	253	-0.80%	252
Western Canada Region	358	368	2.80%	354
America del Sur Region	336	355	5.70%	333
Brazil Region	588	568	-3.40%	582
Mexico/Centroamerica Region	259	267	3.10%	256
Japan Chuo Region	3,122	2,974	-4.70%	3,091
Japan Higashi Region	1,615	1,575	-2.50%	1,599
Japan Kita Region	1,800	1,705	-5.30%	1,782
Japan Minami Region	2,138	2,108	-1.40%	2,117
Japan Nishi Region	2,113	2,026	-4.10%	2,092
Taiwan Region	1,638	1,782	8.80%	1,622
Korea Region	839	840	0.10%	831
Philippines Region	2,068	1,957	-5.40%	2,047

**On the Club level:** The Midwestern Region had 9 clubs who met the Phase 1 Diamond campaign goals! These goals included -1 % net change or better, 13% or more new members, and 14% or fewer terminated members.

Congratulations to the following clubs that met all three Phase 1 campaign goals:

**Illiana, IL**  
**Grosse Pointe, MI**  
**Monroe County, MI**  
**Dayton, OH**  
**Trenton Area, MI**  
**Anderson, IN**  
**Wyandotte-Southgate-Taylor, MI**  
**Kenton, OH**  
**Urbana, OH**

**On the next page is a chart showing the end-of-year progress report for each club in our Region.**

**Please keep reaching out to prospective new members for your clubs and keep your current members engaged so we can retain them for the future! Phase 2 of the Diamond Campaign has begun!**

## Midwestern Region Club Results - Diamond Campaign Phase 1

Net Change in Membership: June 2018 - May 2019				New Members Added: June 2018 - May 2019				Terminated Members: June 2018 - May 2019		
Goal: -1% net change or better				Goal: 13% or more new members				Goal: 14% or fewer terminated members		
Club Name	Total Members 5/31/2018	Total Members 5/31/2019	Percent Net Change	Goal - Total Members by May 2019	New Members June - May	Percent New Members	Goal - Minimum New Members by May 2019	Terminated Members June - May	Percent Terminated Members	Goal - Max Terminated Members by May 2019
Chicago, IL	17	16	-5.88%	17	1	5.88%	3	3	17.65%	2
Fond Du Lac, WI	45	40	-11.11%	45	0	0.00%	6	6	13.33%	6
Milwaukee, WI	21	17	-19.05%	21	2	9.52%	3	6	28.57%	2
Bloomington-Normal, IL	24	23	-4.17%	24	1	4.17%	4	2	8.33%	3
Suburban-Chicago, IL	13	13	0.00%	13	1	7.69%	2	1	7.69%	1
Illiana, IL	23	24	4.35%	23	5	21.74%	3	3	13.04%	3
Indianapolis Metro, IN	19	19	0.00%	19	2	10.53%	3	2	10.53%	2
Dayton, OH	12	15	25.00%	12	4	33.33%	2	1	8.33%	1
Middletown, OH	20	19	-5.00%	20	1	5.00%	3	2	10.00%	2
Anderson, IN	20	24	20.00%	20	6	30.00%	3	2	10.00%	2
Kenton, OH	36	40	11.11%	36	10	27.78%	5	5	13.89%	5
Tipp City and the Upper Miami	26	17	-34.62%	26	0	0.00%	4	9	34.62%	3
Urbana, OH	22	24	9.09%	22	4	18.18%	3	2	9.09%	3
Lucas County, OH	17	15	-11.76%	17	2	11.76%	3	4	23.53%	2
Hancock County Area, OH	10	12	20.00%	10	4	40.00%	2	2	20.00%	1
Greater Detroit, MI	16	6	-62.50%	16	0	0.00%	3	10	62.50%	2
Flat Rock Area, MI	42	36	-14.29%	42	0	0.00%	6	6	14.29%	5
Grosse Pointe, MI	62	70	12.90%	62	15	24.19%	9	6	9.68%	8
Greater Macomb, MI	23	21	-8.70%	23	1	4.35%	3	3	13.04%	3
Monroe County, MI	40	43	7.50%	40	7	17.50%	6	4	10.00%	5
Oakland County, MI	12	10	-16.67%	12	0	0.00%	2	2	16.67%	1
Trenton Area, MI	37	41	10.81%	37	10	27.03%	5	4	10.81%	5
Wyandotte-Southgate-Taylor, MI	13	15	15.38%	13	3	23.08%	2	1	7.69%	1
Canton/Starke County, OH	37	33	-10.81%	37	0	0.00%	5	3	8.11%	5
Columbus and Franklin County, OH	21	17	-19.05%	21	0	0.00%	3	3	14.29%	2
Fremont, OH	58	46	-20.69%	58	2	3.45%	8	13	22.41%	8
Mount Vernon & Knox Cnty., OH	34	34	0.00%	34	4	11.76%	5	4	11.76%	4
Zanesville, OH	35	28	-20.00%	35	0	0.00%	5	7	20.00%	4
NE Suburban Franklin County, OH		12		11		-8.33%		12		



### Soroptimist International Of Cleveland

Over the past 30 days the Cleveland Club has been busy getting up and running. We hosted our first official meeting AND service project on June 12 which was an incredible success. We have grown to 35 members and continue to gain interest! We are working on building our committees and can't wait to keep momentum going as we start to build our brand in the community



Our first service project the "SOAP Project" Picture is of Richelle and Karen Trunk one of 3 mother daughter groups in our club!

### Soroptimist International Of Trenton

Soroptimist International of Trenton Area celebrated the induction of nine new members: Kimberly Bondy, Fallon Donovan, Morgan Hudec, Dianne McDowell, Erika Repasky, Janelle Rose, Catherine Russel, Tessa Smith, and Lani Weslow.



The evening's ceremony began with Donna Fickeisen's lovely invocation remembering the two dear Soroptimist sisters that we have lost this year, Carolyn Sheck and Sandy Rushlau.

Membership committee chairperson distributed many perfect attendance certificates before presenting five-year membership pins to Karen Collins, Lynda Chappelle, and Abby Premoe. Terry Morrow earned her 35-year pin.

President Karen Collins presented Lani Weslow the "Rookie of the Year" award for her take-charge attitude of the prom dress re-sale and club presentations. Sarah Hill was given the "Key Member" award for all of her hard work in spearheading the "Mommy and Me" teas and "Dream It, Be It" events at First Step. Sarah had also received a volunteer award for our club from Consumers Energy. Our most important award, the Soroptimist of the Year, was well deserved by Catherine Infantado. Cathy devotes many hours to fundraising events in addition to volunteering for all other club activities.



Lani Weslow the "Rookie of the Year"

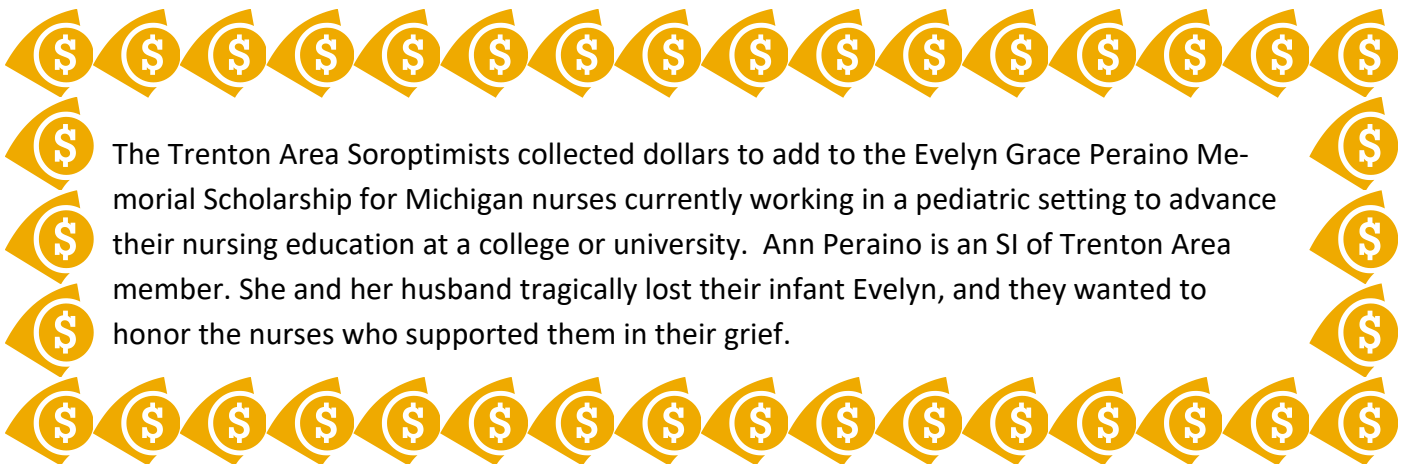
### Soroptimist International Of Trenton, con't



2019 SOY  
Catherine  
Infantado



Key Member  
Sarah Hill



The Trenton Area Soroptimists collected dollars to add to the Evelyn Grace Peraino Memorial Scholarship for Michigan nurses currently working in a pediatric setting to advance their nursing education at a college or university. Ann Peraino is an SI of Trenton Area member. She and her husband tragically lost their infant Evelyn, and they wanted to honor the nurses who supported them in their grief.

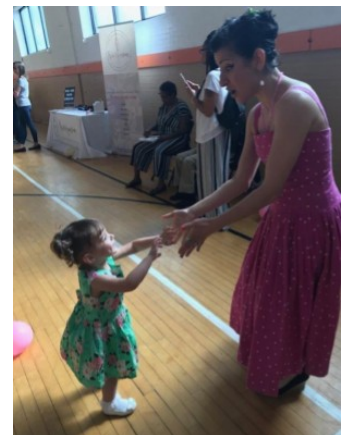
### Soroptimist International Of Canton/Stark County

#### Mommy and Me By: Mary Lorenzo

On Saturday, May 11, members Alex Coon and Mary Lorenzo (and their daughters) attended a "Mommy and Me" Spring dance sponsored by the organization BeYoutiful Weirdo. BeYoutiful Weirdo is a mentoring program for girls ages 5-17 that was founded by this year's Ruby Award winner, Ke'Aunte Tynette Harris.

As part of the mentoring program, Ke'Aunte encourages both parents and educators to get involved with the girls and participate in activities

and workshops that are offered to create a better bond and sense of community. The "Mommy and Me" dance was held at the Massillon YMCA and featured music, dancing, and snacks. The dance was well attended by both boys and girls, and all of the kids (and moms!) had a wonderful time. For more information on BeYoutiful Weirdo, please visit their website at



## Soroptimist International Of Middletown

### MARY C. MAURER

Mary is our 60-year member! She joined in 1958 to be of service to the community and to make new friends. She continues to enjoy the members. She has held the office of president, vice-president, treasurer, and has served on most committees for our club. When asked what projects that the club has done that she thought were good, she replied the giving of our scholarship and awards and also in the past when the club gave kindergarteners hearing tests.

Mary was born in Middletown and has lived in Middletown, OH; Lancaster, PA; Houston, TX; and Monroe, OH. She worked for RCA in promotional sales, as assistant personnel director, and in the radar tube plant where they made radar tubes for the Navy. Women covered these jobs while the men were away during World War II. When her family moved to Texas, she worked at three hospitals in Houston setting up equipment lists for the new hospitals that were being built. When she moved back to Ohio, she became executive director of Middletown Area Girl Scout Council and then assistant director and finance director of the Great Rivers Girl Scout Council, Mary graduated from Middletown High School in 1939, attended Ohio State University 1939-1941, and graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor in Business Administration degree in 1943.

Mary has always been of service to the community and continues to this day. She even sponsors an award through the Middletown Community Foundation, the Mary C. Maurer Award, that recognizes a community volunteer between the ages of 30 and 50.

Mary served as the assistant clerk of council for Monroe for five years during their fiscal emergency. She is now on the audit committee for the city of Monroe. She has served as president of the board of Mount Pleasant and is presently serving on the nominating committee for the board, the finance committee, and the marketing committee.

Mary is very involved at Mt. Pleasant. She has served as president and vice-president of the Mt. Pleasant Residents' Association, served on Resident Repre-

sentative to Mt. Pleasant board, Ohio Living Representative, and on the Community Board. She also is a cashier at The Barn.

She has been a registered Girl Scout for 82 years!

At First United Methodist Church she has been a lay leader and a member of the Finance and Administrative Council.

She served on the Middletown United Way board.

Through the years she has served on study committees for the Middletown United Way board, the Cincinnati United Way board, the Middletown schools, and the YMCA.

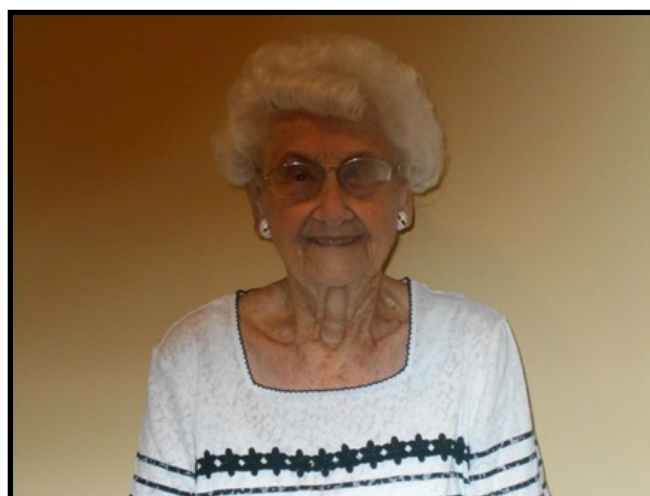
Currently she is a board member and assistant treasurer for the Monroe Historical Society.

She is currently a member of the Monroe Current Events and has served as president, vice-president, and treasurer in the past.

She is a member of Rotary of Monroe.

And a member of Federation of Women's Clubs where she served as vice-president and president and received the First Woman of the Year Award.

As you all know, Mary holds the record for selling the most ads every year for our fundraiser program. She usually serves on the audit committee and as parliamentarian. SI Middletown thinks Mary is a very special person, and we're glad to have her as a member of our club!





## Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

### A Happy Ending To A Call For Help!

Remember the pride and joy we experienced at our Awards Ceremony when we provided financial support for two Live Your Dream (LYD) and two Virginia Wagner recipients? Just two months later SIGP members again rallied to individually support a previous LYD recipient. Lakissa Purnell had suffered private setbacks in 2018 resulting in her withdrawal from Wayne State University. With only one semester left to complete her degree, Lakissa had accumulated a large student loan debt with little probability of paying it off. With the outstanding generosity of SIGP members, we raised \$3,078 and presented a check to WSU on Lakissa's behalf. (See photo at left.) Along with Lakissa's own financial commitment toward her now manageable account balance and WSU's new Warrior Way Back program that provides debt forgiveness, we expect Lakissa will be able to register for Fall Semester and complete her degree in Social

Work. Lakissa has asked me to express her deep gratitude to SIGP for our members' financial support but, most importantly, for our belief in her and her future. —

Maddy Jeffs



(L-R) Lakissa Purnell, SIGP member Maddy Jeffs and Chloe Lundine, Enrollment Program Manager (WSU)

### [Live Your Dream Award Application Portal Update](#)

The application portal used by clubs and applicants in North America will be open for applications on August 1, 2019. Clubs should begin their recruitment process as early as possible but communicate with applicants they can begin applying on August 1.

### Take One Step

**Take  
ONE  
Step**

To Support Our Collective Impact

Through the *Live Your Dream Awards*, SIA reaches tens of thousands of women across our 21 countries and territories. But more can be done to further increase the quality of change in the lives of award recipients, and improve the standard of living for these women and their families.

Consult the [Live Your Dream Awards Toolkit](#) for tips on providing support beyond the cash award.

**Education is the key to gender equality, which has yet to be achieved anywhere in the world.**



## Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe

*Positive Images—DREAM IT, BE IT*

SIGP is presented Dream It, Be It for the women living at Coplin Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

The dates were June 18, 20, 25, 27 and July 2. The program focused on each woman realizing her dream. The women assessed their value systems, created goals to help achieve their dreams and looked at personal obstacles in their lives which are stumbling blocks to achieving that dream.

Methods of dealing with stress and the importance of reaching out for help and support was discussed.

We had “stress relief” stations of massage, yoga, exercise, crafts, journaling, healthy eating, and meditation.

— Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich

## Soroptimist International Of Trenton

Casey Ilitis of Advia Credit Union presented the club with a generous grant check to be used for our “Dream It, Be It” program at First Step in July. Volunteers from Advia Credit Union will be assisting the Soroptimist members there.

SI of Trenton Area obtained a Soroptimist Club grant for women and girls to offer “Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls” to local high school girls this autumn from the Soroptimist International of the Americas.



## Soroptimist International Of Chicago

### Dream It Be It Career Support educates Taft Students

Taft held an eye opening event where Dream It Be It Career Support came in, and discussed how young women can improve their lives.

Dream It Be It Career Support program has over 75,000 members in 122 countries to help and educate women lead them to social economic empowerment. One May 3 only Taft girls were invited to the assembly, so they can learn about the struggle women go through, and how to deal with them.

At the event, topics such as body image, family obligations, bullying, gender discrimination, self care and sexual harassment were called to attention to students and many of them were enlightened.

The girls were provided with binders that included all the information covered at the event. It gave step-by-step tips to help young women learn how to cope with issues, and how to love themselves as well as others.

Teacher **Lauren Zucchero** said, "It was our first time having Dream It Do It program at Taft, and it's extremely important because our female students will enter a career or a professional job within the next couple of years. Sometimes, not only young women but young adults, do not have the acumen or decorum to deal with workplace harassment and or sexual harassment. As a women in the workplace I've accepted behavior from my male and female colleagues that would have been considered harassment or workplace bullying. As I get older, I look back at my younger self and think why didn't I do anything? Why did I allow someone to say something unprofessional. As our young students leave Taft, I hope they embody the skills and knowledge to combat unacceptable workplace behavior. I see dream It Do It becoming a network of professional women supporting other professional women."

This is an amazing program that teaches young women about empowerment, self love, and how to deal with the struggles of being a women in the generation.

**(The article above was recreated as best I could. I have copies the article as written by Catherine Garnet a student of Taft.) See article below.**



## Soroptimist International Of Chicago

Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy Beverly Bucur share the attached extensive report about our programs that support the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #4 - Education for Women

There is a lot of information. I suggest you scroll the report for programs of interest. (see link under photo)

We thank Beverly for all the work she is doing on behalf of Soroptimist International and the women she is helping as a **Global Voice For Women**.



**EDUCATE, EMPOWER, ENABLE**

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## Soroptimist International Of Wyandotte, Southgate, Taylor



Hosted by Soroptimist International Wyandotte, Southgate, Taylor  
[siwst.com](http://siwst.com)

Be a part of the conversation with Join the Rosie's  
July 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.  
At J.P. McGuire's  
21138 Goddard, Taylor  
\$20 pp  
Food, 50/50's, Basket Raffles  
<https://siwst-rosies.eventbrite.com>



Part of the 'She Said' Conversation Series

### Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb



On Jun 23, 2019, SIGM participated in the New Baltimore Bayrama Parade. Originally we intended to walk the parade, but at some point we decided to create a "float". One member said she could procure a trailer, another volunteered her pick-up truck to pull the trailer, and another "volun-told" her husband to drive the truck. Yet another member volunteered to direct a few of us in the making blue and yellow

'flowers' from plastic bags, and we used plastic table covers for bunting. We had a vertical vinyl banner and another member had her dad frame it in PVC so it could stand upright on the trailer, held in place by our two co-presidents, riding the "Presidential Trailer".

Seven other members walked along the parade route distributing brochures to women, and strawberry Twizzlers to children.

We lined up at 11AM but had to wait till 1PM to begin moving. So we had plenty of time to chat with other parade entrants as well as pedestrians. We were able to make solid contact, engaging them in conversation about who we are and what we do, with at least four people before the parade even began.

We were photographed by a gentleman who works for two local newspapers, so we are hoping to appear in at least one of those papers.



### Soroptimist International of Zanesville

We've Come a Long Way, Baby! In April, Governor DeWine signed a bill commemorating 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. SB 30 creates the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to oversee events that celebrate the date when The State of Ohio ratified the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. The goal of the commission is to celebrate the trailblazers who lead the way for women, and to educate young people on the historical significance and modern day impact of the amendment.

Ohio played a large role in the suffrage movement. The first Suffrage convention was held in Cleveland. Cleveland was the first city in Ohio to allow women to vote.

Jen Miller, director of the League of Women Voters in Ohio says, 'My hope is that every day Ohioans- especially women, and especially young women, understand how hard it was to win the right to vote. I hope that they see it as sacred, and I hope that they will do everything they can to be active voters.'

### Suffragettes posting bills in Cininnatti, Ohio



100 Years of Progress

## Soroptimist International of Lucas County

Savannah Hinline-Rayfor, Founder and Executive Director of Covered International spoke at our April meeting. She started Covered International in 2012 after working with the Daughter Project. She wanted to address women over 18 years as the Daughter project focused on younger girls coming from sex trafficking. She and other members walked into strip clubs (which 70% of commercial sex industry is through strip clubs) with gift bags and a card allowing victims to connect with a member. Back in 2012 there were 14 strip clubs, today only 4. Covered International has 62 volunteers, 8 run the daily operations and, 12 are trained with trauma and connecting with resources. In the past year they have shifted to add recovery services, hospital, homeless shelters, churches and transitional housing.

Since all staff and Covered Women get together once a month for a meal, we are in the planning stages of providing one of these meals. We are also determining in what other way we can assist with supplies, etc.

The Human Trafficking Conference held each fall at the University of Toledo is September 19 and 20, 2019. Theresa Flores is planning a dinner for 50 survivors and staff on the evening of the 19th. We hopefully will be able to provide this meal honoring these women.

## Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb



On June 12, two of our members attended a Human Trafficking training class put on by Alabaster Gift. Other attendees were from Vista Maria, Common Ground/Oakland

County, Alabaster Gift, the Set Free Movement/Monroe County, among others.

The presenter was Andy Soper, from Measurable Change. His first point was that there is no standard definition of Human Trafficking among law enforcement, social services, or government agencies, or law makers. Nor is there a consistent definition of a successful outcome for survivors.

Andy went on to explain ten markers ( Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs); that have significant impact on adulthood. These include physical/ emotional/ sexual abuse and neglect, substance abuse and violence in the home, mental illness in the home, and separation/ divorce of parents. The

ACE with the greatest negative effect is disaffection from mom, especially for more drastic outcomes; #2 is sexual abuse.

As the number of ACE experiences rises, rates soar for one's number of sexual partners, STDs, any drug use, IV drug use, juvenile detention. Those with six or more ACEs average a loss of 20 years of life expectancy. The effects are also physiological : there is a dramatic difference in CAT scans in people with high ACE scores.

Andy then offered case scenarios for a Trafficker and two trafficked women, comparing and contrasting their backgrounds, their inter-relationships with one another and their outcomes.



### Soroptimist International of Monroe

#### MONROE COUNTY

#### ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION

Who We Are and What We Do

Our Aims: Empower Survivors and End Human Trafficking

<https://mcahtc.weebly.com>

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Police arrested eight pimps and recovered a human-trafficking victim in Metro Grand Rapids as part of a nationwide initiative to rescue juveniles being trafficked as prostitutes in the U.S. and overseas.

Police also temporarily took seven adult prostitutes into custody and advised them of services in the community, such as job training, housing, counseling, medical help and education assistance, the FBI said.

Area police agencies joined the FBI in Operation Cross Country X, or OCCX.

Police conducted undercover operations in the Grand Rapids area. No juveniles were recovered but police gained information to track such operations in the future, the FBI said.

"The success of OCCX in Michigan is due to the local, state and federal partners who share the same passionate commitment to disrupt and prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adults," David Gelios, special agent in charge of the Detroit FBI division, said in a statement.



"While the recovery of juvenile victims of this exploitation remains our priority, the FBI will continue to fight this battle and conduct these operations as long as anyone is being commercially trafficked and exploited.

Wyoming Police Chief James Carmody said police would "do what it takes to free our community of this unfortunate reality."

The annual project is part of a national strategy to fight the sexual

exploitation of children as prostitutes.

The FBI said pimps and their victims - forced to work as prostitutes - often travel throughout the country. The enforcement effort gives the FBI and local police ability to "cast a broad net which gives law enforcement a better opportunity to identify, locate, and recover victims before they are moved to another area," the FBI said.

"In addition, the intelligence gained from simultaneous operations conducted across the country gives investigators a better understanding of the criminal threat." The Grand Rapids task force is one of three in the state. The project is part of the FBI's Innocence Lost Initiative, which has resulted in the recovery of over 6,000 children in child-sex trafficking since its creation in 2003. It has resulted in many long prison sentences for those who exploit children, the FBI said.

Kent County Undersheriff Michelle Young said that fighting human trafficking is "some of the most important work we will ever do as law enforcement officers." Across the country, police recovered 82 sexually exploited juveniles and arrested 239 pimps and their associates, the FBI said.

The agencies taking part were police departments in Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Wyoming, sheriffs' departments in Allegan, Ionia, Kent and Ottawa counties, Michigan State Police, Child Protective Services, Homeland Security Investigations, Kent County Children's Assessment Center and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Michigan.



**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**

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

Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe

**Join Us on Saturday, Sept 21, 2019**



**STOP TRAFFIC 5K**  
A Human Trafficking Awareness Walk/Run

Presented by Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe  
In partnership with St. Lucy's Church in Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.

Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.



Start time is at 8:00 a.m.

**Register at [www.grossepointesoroptimist.org](http://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org)**

Proceeds benefit anti-human trafficking organizations operating in Metro Detroit.  
This is an untimed, family-friendly event.

Soroptimist International Of Canton/Stark County

**Fundraiser - Save The Date**

**What: Fall Fundraiser: Soroptimists on Broadway**

**When: Fundraiser - September 21st. Soroptimist & S-Club Members arrive at 8 am. Pictures at 9 am. Doors open at 10 am.**  
**Set-Up - September 20th. All are welcome. Time TBD**

**Where: La Pizzeria – We are moving rooms from the Crystal Room to the Piazza Room! We are so happy to have the opportunity to move rooms to expand our fundraiser! The space is BEAUTIFUL, spacious and has a ton of natural light.**

**Action #1: All applicable details of our committee meeting will be revealed during the next business meeting. For now, we are asking members to consider donating gift cards of amounts starting at \$10 or more to increase the attention of the "Gift Card" board. All gift card donations can be given directly to Rachel starting at the May business meeting through the September business meeting. Our goal is to get a total of 50-100 different gift cards through member donations and company donations. If you are getting donations of gift cards**

### Soroptimist International Of Monroe

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

Doors open at 1PM  
Bingo starts at 2PM  
\$30 in advance/\$35 at door  
\$5 each additional card

**River Raisin Banquet Center**

8 North Monroe Street  
Monroe, MI 48162

Hello Members-

Ticket sales for Designer Purse Bingo is in full swing!

There are 2 ways to purchase tickets, through a member or online.

**Purchase via member:**

Send an email with the your full name and your email address to [sarahstiffler@gmail.com](mailto:sarahstiffler@gmail.com).

**Purchase Online:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/designer-purse-bingo-tickets-62358095743>

### Soroptimist International Of Lucas County

Working on our second wine tasting October 5, 2019. Meeting of committee to meet in the middle of July to finalize all the details.

Stay tuned!!



### Soroptimist International Of Greater Macomb



October 13 is the date of our 2nd Annual Steps Towards Freedom 5K Run/Walk. Like last year, our walk is being held at Shelby Township’s River Bends Park. Also, like last year, we will be offering water, fruit, cider and donuts after the event. So far our planning committee has lined up FIVE (5!!) corporate sponsors. We are looking forward to being able to make donations to organizations that support Human Trafficking survivors at our Awards Banquet next year, in addition to our education grants and Ruby Award.

As last year’s Bunco event was fun and successful, we are planning another one on Nov 8. Again, we are planning snacks and appetizer buffet, basket raffle, and 50/50 drawing. Thank you Laurie Huff and Amanda Melkert for planning it again.



## Soroptimist International Of SI-Fond du Lac

### Bazaar makes everyone a winner

It didn't exactly take the whole village, but it took nearly the whole club to pull off a successful new project for SI-Fond du Lac in mid-June.

What got started as a solution to the common complaint, "I have so much stuff (and we didn't exactly say 'stuff') in my house, I don't know what to do with it," evolved into a crazy-good two-day bazaar and bake sale. We set a very modest goal of raising \$500 to boost our Virginia Wagner award funding and ended up earning more than \$1,800!

And, many of us managed to get closets cleaned and a lot of that "stuff" out of our houses. Win-win-win!

As Robyn King, who steered the committee, sagely observed at the end of the event (which took three days to set up and two days of sales), "It's not just about raising money. It's about helping others and raising awareness in the community."

District 1 Secretary Connie Gindt concurs: "We've been blessed to have purchased and used nice things in our lives, be it clothing, housewares, decorations, etc. How wonderful to know that others will be able to use these items that we no longer need. Now, being able to honor more women in our community with a Dr. Virginia M. Wagner award is like a triple blessing!"

Robyn and Connie shared a few tears of happiness (and a bit of exhaustion) on Saturday afternoon as they considered the impact the club had on the community from just this event. **The club partnered with Youth for Christ**, who allowed use of their building for no charge. However, we are making a donation to YFC in gratitude, as well as recognition of the good work they do in the community.

**We provided**, through club members' generosity, \$250 in rummage sale vouchers to women in the **Women's Empowerment** program, so they could shop our sale; all of the vouchers distributed to them were used.

**We invited** young people in the **Teen Parent** group (mentored by our member Misty) to shop, too, without

charge. Many of them found useful things for themselves and their babies.

**We partnered** with a resale shop which loaned us a great clothing display rack to use during our sale; we send many of our nicer unsold garments to them as donations.

**We also partnered with Salvation Army**, which sent a truck and a crew to pick up all our unsold items, which we donated to their mission.

Throughout the sale days, there were many opportunities to interact with the public, many of whom only knew Soroptimist as the "Chocolate Fantasy" people, and told them about the other work SI does in Fond du Lac and throughout the world. Shoppers learned that all proceeds are going to provide more scholarship/education help to local women college students, as well as how to apply for the awards. It helped us raise awareness on a whole new level.

Finally, and not least, we **strengthened our friendship bonds** within the club by working together over five days, with dozens of members and their family members' help, over hundreds of cumulative hours. It was hard work, for sure. It was worth it, for sure.

I cannot adequately express my admiration and thanks to our whole club for all the ways they pitched in, believed in the project and saw it through like champs! Will we do it again? Absolutely YES!  
-- Renee DuFore Russell, president, SI Fond du Lac





## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

**Governor** *Kris Armstrong*

SI Bloomington Normal

**Governor-Elect** *Darcy Mettitt*

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

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SI Fond du Lac

**District II Director** *Barb Flory*

SI Middletown

**District II Secretary** *Jennifer Prater*

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**District IV Secretary** *Abby Bouton*

SI Columbus & Franklin County

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WWW.SIMWR.ORG



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## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



**Standing:** Christine Shearer, Jenny Prater, Barb Flory, Susan Frankel,  
Connie Gindt, Mary Pilon, Lata Shastri, Abby Bouton

**Seat:** Missie Austin, Kris Armstrong, Darcy Merritt, Audrey Jarvey

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Soroptimist International of the Americas - ([siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org))

### Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - ([simwr.org](http://simwr.org))

Soroptimist International of the Americas ([soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org))

Soroptimist International ([soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org))

Soroptimist Summary ([soroptimistsummary.org](http://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)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS  
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