



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

**JUNE
2019
Edition**

The Vision

2019 Date to Remember

SI CONVENTION

- July 18-21, 2019
Kuala Lumpur

SIA CONVENTION

- July 22-25, 2020
Bellevue, WA

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Articles from
SI of:

Canton/Stark County

Columbus
& Franklin County

Greater Macomb

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Zanesville

Governor's Message



2019 is really moving along as we complete the first year of the 2018-2020 biennium. Governor-Elect Darcy and I will be in Montreal later this month for Governor's Roundtable. Per the agenda, we're going to be spending quite a bit of time reviewing strategic plans and the importance of same. It sounds thrilling. The thing is though, it's important that MWR has a strategic plan and it's equally as important for clubs to have a plan as well. If your club hasn't updated your plan or doesn't have one, please contact your District Director for assistance. The strategic plan for a club should not be too long, or too specific – it's meant to be written at a high level. Tactics that you use to achieve your objectives are where the details come in to play. If you haven't done so, please review both the Federation and MWR plans.

Speaking of plans, I'm putting together the agenda for this summer's board meeting where we'll be getting ready for the District Meetings and 2020 Spring Conference. One of the things that I'm rather keen on doing at our fall meetings, conference, or both, is SOLT. For our newer members, SOLT is an acronym for Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training. As we move forward

toward our 100th anniversary, it's important to know our history and the how, what and why's of Soroptimist.

This first year of the biennium has been a pretty darn good one. Our finances are in great shape. We've chartered two new clubs and have reached our Diamond Campaign membership goal, which were two of our big goals. As we get ready to begin year two, we are working on chartering a club in the Northfield, MI area. And we're ready for the S branding change which officially begins January 1, 2020. I also feel that we're ready to take on new leadership challenges, the main one being pulling our club and region leadership teams together for the next biennium. I've heard from a number of members who are interested in accepting a leadership role in their clubs and the region for the 2020-22 and it's super exciting to watch the generational rollover. As I said in my State of The Region speech – we're the ones we've been waiting for. You got this, so let's do it!

*Kris Armstrong
Midwestern Region Governor*

**Helping women and girls
live their dreams**

Soroptimist International Of Milwaukee

Janet Nortrom's Interests Know No Boundaries

When it comes to reaching out to help others, no one is more involved than Janet Nortrom.

This is the second in a series of stories about Soroptimist members whose charitable instincts go far beyond the boundaries of SI Milwaukee into a variety of activities to help others. It is inspired by the latest award Janet received, this time from the United Nations.

On May 4, with Marlowe Nortrom, her husband of 59 years by her side, Janet was presented with Global Educator Award by the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Greater Milwaukee Chapter. Janet has been a teacher at Milwaukee Area Technical School for nearly 30 years and is currently conducting a program for recovering women prisoners. But her interests and influence stretch far beyond the classroom.

"My biggest concern right now is climate control and the environment. If we don't get the air cleaned up nothing else will matter," she told the gathering. Janet has had leadership roles in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, and the American Association of University Women as well as active roles in the Shorewood Women's Club and the League of Women Voters. She is especially proud of receiving the Frank P. Zeidler Award for her efforts to promote social justice, literacy, voter education and the environment and the Unitarian Universalist's Clara Barton Award given for promoting justice and equity for women and girls. She also was recently named a Shorewood Great Citizen.

As a U.N. envoy she has helped bring officials from the United Nations to Milwaukee and she says she is stimulated by seeing where she can help bring about change. As part of this she doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk, traveling to Washington for Million Woman Marches, and marches to stop gun violence and support Planned Parenthood. She's also been known to slip out of SI Milwaukee meetings just a bit early so she can get to local protests on time. With all the world's problems, Janet maintains her hope for a better future.

"I wouldn't be able to get up in the morning if I didn't believe I could help bring about change by collaborating with those around me," she said. Her mantra, Speak Up, Stay Involved.

A Winning Smile



Beautifully attired Janet Nortrom displays the Global Educator Award she received from the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Greater Milwaukee Chapter.

The Vision

Membership

Soroptimist International Of Greater Macomb

Also thanks to Mona Clugh for planning another Membership event. Our 2nd annual Nordstrom's night will be November 21st at the Partridge Creek location, Nordstrom's provides appetizers, soft drinks, and goodie bags filled with all sorts of products and samples from their cosmetics department.

NORDSTROM

Happy 75th Anniversary



SI Greater Macomb was founded in 1945, so next year will be our 75th anniversary...our diamond jubilee so to speak. So April 16, 2020, we will combine our awards banquet with our birthday party. In keeping with SIA's Soroptimist Diamond Campaign, the theme of our anniversary/awards celebration is "Beautiful Past, Brilliant Future." Thanks to Pam Russell for chairing the planning committee.



Bev Todd and Amanda Melkert are planning their July trip to Kuala Lumpur for our SI Convention. They are planning a city tour before the convention, as well as another tour afterwards. It's 5 days and 4 nights to Borneo. Woo hoo!

Soroptimist International Of Zanesville



The Soroptimist International of Zanesville club has awarded The Spirit of Soroptimist award to member Lynn McGlade.

Lynn is a very active member and is very passionate about

Soroptimist.

Lynn retired last year after working for 44 years at Genesis Hospital, where she still serves as a volunteer. She also volunteers with her church and helps to tutor school children. Lynn has served 1 1/2 terms as club president and is now on the board as an "Ex Officio." She is a wonderful asset to the club.

Congratulations Lynn!



For August, Jessica Finch is planning our annual potluck picnic at her home. Thanks, Jessica!



Last, but not least (or least for now): A few of our younger members have been charged with dragging us into the 21st century. So sometime between now and next year we should be expanding our social media footprint (#SpotlightSoroptimist). In addition to Facebook they are planning on adding Twitter and/or Instagram to our communications. In addition, they are planning a much needed update of our website. Looking forward, always forward!!



Soroptimist International President's Appeal Update

Thank you to the members of Soroptimist International of the Americas for your contributions of **\$153,987.65** to The Soroptimist International's, President's Appeal, Women, Water and Leadership. Total donations have almost reached **\$350,000** as of March 31, 2019.

SI Jakarta together with SISWP proposed the fourth project of the President's Appeal.

"Indonesia Earthquake Recovery through Water, Shelter and Capacity Building". The main aim of this two-year project will be to improve the lives of the women in Rebuk Satu, Rembitan, central Lombok, by providing them with clean water, WASH facilities, community awareness programs, and access to vocational educational programs on a range of subjects designed to provide them

with income generating skills. By the end of the two years, it is envisaged that sustainable practices will already be in place, ensuring a higher standard of living for Rebuk Satu, with women playing leading roles in water management, and income generating activities. The two year project will be taken over by Soroptimist International of Southwest Pacific at the end of the current President's Appeal.



SI President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen



Women, Water & Leadership
SI President's Appeal 2017-2019

a global voice
for women

Soroptimists Educate, Empower and Enable through Water

Through the Soroptimist International President's Appeal 2017-2019, 'Women, Water & Leadership' (WWL), Soroptimists are challenging deep-rooted stereotypes of women as 'victims' of the global water crisis, and through an innovative programs of education and mentorship which will stretch across five continents, providing women with the skills

and infrastructure to be innovators, and part of the water solution. To date, WWL is delivering food security, better access to water and sanitation, clean energy and advanced farming techniques, and facilitating economic independence for women in Kenya, Bulgaria and Malaysia.

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

Soroptimist International Of Mt. Vernon

Joan Stallard, chair On 2/14/19, 2/21/19 and 2/28/19 at the Mt. Vernon Middle School 10 students registered to partici-



ate in our Dream It, Be It program. Soroptimist Diana Oswalt led the discussion about overcoming obstacles while Lorraine Ferre showed the girls yoga moves to reduce stress. On the final day, April 18, the girls will help prepare and

bake a vegetarian quiche, make the salads, set the tables, fold napkins, arrange flowers, etc. Soroptimist members are invited to come and join in the fun!



Soroptimist International Of Greater Macomb

SIGM held a Dream It Be It event in March. Instead of waiting another year, we are exploring possibility of having another one later this year. Thanks to Mona Clugh.

Soroptimist International Of Chicago

Rising Above Obstacles in the Workplace

The SI Chicago club's Dream it, Be it program was geared to High School Seniors and a few Juniors in the work/study program of a Chicago Public High school.

SI Chicago members prepared extensively, including training from a Human Resource expert. We used portions of the SIA curriculum but modified and added at least 50% new materials. This will be available on the Midwestern Region web site. We had a corporate sponsor, Wintrust Bank, who printed all our materials and provided notebooks for 60. This saved us approximately \$500.

The evaluations were extremely positive. The girls appreciated the examples of workplace experiences related by our members and requested more.

The teacher asked us to come back twice in the next school year and the bank said they would provide more funding in the future.

Photos of the girls doing skits with solutions to



Soroptimist International Of Columbus & Franklin County

Our friend Betty Fox, who is a true world traveler, is planning a trip to India in early 2020, to do a DfG distribution AND do some touring. She is looking to take some friends with her. If you think that you might be interested please send your responses to the questionnaire to bettyfox2258@gmail.com

Thanks!

Susan Smith of Days for Girls

Hello,

Well, I'm thinking of a kit distribution for 2020 in India!!!! I'd love to take a group of women (6-10) to come along and be a part of this life-changing experience. I'm just in the thinking, very early planning stages, but am in contact with an organization in India that will facilitate our experience. India Someday specializes in cultural immersion trips. They also have numerous contacts with organizations who will facilitate kit distribution. They can provide translators if needed. They will take care of ALL LOGISTICS for both kit distribution and travel. We will travel as a small group but this will not be a standard tour of India!

It will not be a luxury trip but neither will it be a low budget trip— an average budget in India really is more than adequate to provide great accommodations, transportation, and local guide services.

Just a brief outline:

- ~Travel to India for 16 days (2 days of travel and 14 in India)
- ~Immerse yourself in Indian culture, local food, and really get to experience India
- ~Distribute kits
- ~See the sights, while getting to know the local people
- ~Stay in locally owned accommodations (comfortable accommodations with all the amenities you would expect)
- ~Transportation within India: maybe flights, train, car. - to be determined
- ~Most likely based in Rajasthan and Mumbai

As I mentioned this is just a BRIEF outline to ascertain if there's any interest.

So, if you're remotely interested, please respond ASAP and then when I get more information from India Someday, I'll keep you informed.

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING YOU, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS ARTICLE.

You would not be required to actually do the required educational program during a distribution. You can merely be part of each distribution through your presence ——passing out kits and helping girls to practice putting them together.

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW (If you're interested) Please respond by cutting and pasting these questions in the body of your email to Betty

- IS THE TOTAL OF 16 DAYS THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TIME? IF NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU PREFER?
- WHEN ARE YOU AVAILABLE?
JANUARY -
FEBRUARY -
MARCH -
- WHAT WOULD BE YOUR MAX BUDGET FOR 16 DAYS NOT INCLUDING AIRFARE? (Just a general ball park is good)
- WOULD YOU WANT TO SHARE A ROOM WITH SOMEONE OR HAVE A SINGLE?
- ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE AN OVERNIGHT TRAIN?
- ARE YOU WILLING TO BRING ONE 50# BAG FILLED WITH DfG KITS?
- ARE YOU WILLING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DAYS FOR GIRLS BEFORE THE TRIP?
- WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCH A TRIP?
- WHILE IN INDIA WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? TO EXPERIENCE?
- FAMOUS SIGHTS? LOCAL VILLAGES? SPIRITUAL SIGHTS LIKE VARANASI? NATURAL SIGHTS? MAYBE DO SOME YOGA?

I'm really excited about this opportunity to share a Days For Girls distribution with you. India is an exciting country with so many sights, smells, colors, and experiences. I promise that we will be well looked after by local representatives!!!!!! If you've never traveled to India this would be a great experience to get a taste of all that India has to offer! Our experiences will take us to famous sights like the Taj Mahal and to rural villages, but it will NOT be just a normal tour of seeing as many sights as you can in 14 days— —that I can promise you!!!!

So, give yourself a GIFT!!!!!! Join me in India and while you give yourself a gift, you'll be giving a gift to the girls in India!!!!!!

Namaste,
Betty

Soroptimist International of Monroe

Rediscovering the First Woman Film Director
(taken from The Auction Exchange May 13, 2019)

Alice Guy-Blache of France was the first female director in film history. She wrote, produced or directed at least 1,000 films before the 1920s. She also became the first woman to head a studio, opening Solax Studios in Fort Lee when the town was the epicenter of American filmmaking earning the equivalent of more than \$1 million per year.

So how come most of us have never heard of Alice Guy-Blache? What happened to her?

She began as a secretary for Gaumont, a Paris company that sold and manufactured cameras. Alice began doing her own filming with permission from her boss Leon Gaumont. A few of her films: The Sticky Woman; The Consequences of Feminism; and The Life of Christ.

Solax Studios left Fort Lee in part due to World War I and the difficulties of filming in winter months. In addition, another problem was that Thomas Edison, the founder of West Orange's Black Maria Studio, began a trust with George Eastman charging fees to use Edison cameras and Eastman Kodak film.

A documentary about the life of Alice Guy-Blache recently premiered in New York, narrated by Jodie Foster and financed by famous backers as Jodie Foster herself, along with Robert Redford and the late Hugh Hefner. The documentary is entitled "Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blache."

Submitted by Vivian Walczesky
SI of Monroe County MI

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

May was a big planning month for
SI Greater Macomb.

Coming up first is the New Baltimore's annual BayRama parade, Sunday June 23rd. This is our first time participating in this parade and we are hoping it is an effective Public Awareness event. Some of us will be marching,



some will be riding. Thanks to Vickie for obtaining a truck and trailer to display our banner and thanks to Laurie for overseeing decorating the vehicles.

SIMWR Celebrating Success Entries!



Have you sent in your Celebrating Success form? Entries are due to me by **JULY 1, 2019**.

Please get on the SIA website (see link below) and find Celebrating Success. All the instructions and the entry form are there. So please check with your club chairs (Program, Fundraising, Membership, and Public Awareness) and find out if they have completed the CS form and those entries should be mailed to me and postmarked prior to **July 1, 2019**.

Vivian Walczesky
Midwestern Region
Celebrating Success Chair
2018-2020

<https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/for-clubs/soroptimists-celebrating-success.html>

**Be Natural: the Untold Story of
Alice Guy-Blache**

Is being shown at Detroit Institute of Arts

July 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm
July 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM & 7:00 pm
July 28, 2019 at 2 00 PM & 4:30pm

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Laurie Jost is a board member and chair of the Human Trafficking Awareness Committee for the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation where she produced the award-winning documentary *Stuck in Traffic - Modern-Day Slavery in Michigan* and is currently producing *Men Who Buy Sex - Modern-Day Predators*. Both documentaries expose the ugly nature of modern-day sex trafficking and

the tragic results that the demand places on individuals and society.

Ms. Jost is a volunteer member of the Southeast Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force and performed foster care viability assessments for Wayne County Court Appointed Special Advocates. She is actively involved and supports the Soroptimist Club of Grosse Pointe, embracing the overall mission to empower girls and women throughout the world.

Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters,

The Wayne County Medical Society Foundation is actively changing views and opinions on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Our last award winning and highly regarded documentary, *Stuck in Traffic – Modern-Day Slavery in Michigan*, is being implemented in classrooms and venues across the state of Michigan. It was aimed to educate our young people to the dangers of human trafficking and how to avoid being drawn in. The paradigm is now shifting to the emphasis on men who buy sex, focusing on combating the solicitation and demand for sex. We have made a 10-minute preview of, *Men Who Buy Sex*. Unless there are meaningful consequences to the “Johns” human trafficking and prostitution will not be impeded. The new video will provide an overview of the problem and make the general public aware that there is an issue. To end the problem the demand must be addressed. The video will be a 50 minute 1st class documentary of Netflix quality. It will be shown to a broad audience including the state legislature. We plan to have a pre and post video evaluation of human trafficking and prostitution included to measure the impact of our work. The cost of the video will be approximately \$185,000. We have already raised a portion of this and with your help, we are certain we can reach this goal. If this effort is successful, it may be one of the most influential activities that the WCMS Foundation has ever undertaken. You can play a crucial role in making this project a reality. We are counting on your support.

Sincerely,
Joseph Beals, MD
Chair - WCMS Foundation

Laurie Jost
WCMS Foundation
Chair - Human Trafficking
Committee

WAYNE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



Men Who Buy Sex – Modern Day Predators
feature film will present:

Evidence-based findings to help end the demand for commercial sex. Ideology to change the paradigm that the sex buyer is an unwilling participant and recognize prostitution and pornography as sexual exploitation. Demonstrate the linkage between buyers of pornography and human sex trafficking. The psychological profile of the buyer. A demographic statistical analysis. How sex buyers and porn users damage and destroy otherwise healthy lifestyles and relationships. Compare sex buyers with men who don't buy sex. Innovative, successful practices in the US and internationally for reducing the demand for commercial sex. Legislative options and programs needed to make buyers of sex accountable. Arguments to convince criminal justice professionals and policy makers at federal, state, and local levels of the importance of prioritizing demand reduction by increasing arrests and penalties. A pre and post video evaluation of human trafficking and prostitution incidence.

To make a donation and to watch the, *Men Who Buy Sex – Modern-Day Predators*, 10minute preview and the award-winning documentary, *Stuck in Traffic – Modern-Day Slavery*, go to:

www.wcmssm.org/human-trafficking.html

Soroptimist International of Monroe



NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

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

Soroptimist International Of Monroe



Daily Pick 3 - We will be selling tickets through May 24th. Drawings will start June 1 and will run until June 30 with 75 chances to win \$25-250. This raffle follows the State of Michigan Daily Pick 3 evening drawing. If the ticket number comes up Monday – Friday, ticket holder wins \$100. If the ticket number comes up on Saturday, the ticket holder wins \$250. This raffle also goes one number up and down. Monday through Saturday for \$25. There are 3 chances to win daily. We will notify the seller daily if a ticket they sold wins and they will be able to notify the winner. We will also post daily on our Facebook page. Just a reminder, these tickets are a great gift idea for Mother’s Day, Graduations, Bridal and Baby Showers.

Please contact Tammi Van Aiken for tickets at tammi@paulsqualitycollision.com

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 Grosse Pointe

Join Us on Saturday, Sept 21, 2019



SHE'S NOT FOR SALE

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.



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Start time
is at
8:00 a.m.

Register at 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 Midwestern Region Board

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District IV Secretary Abby Bouton

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CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!

WWW.SIMWR.ORG



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Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



Back row: Lata Shastri , Christine Shearer, Mary Pilon, Audrey Jarvey, Susan Frankel, Barb Flory, Jenny Prater, Abby Bouton
**Front Row: Darcy Merritt , Kris Armstrong ,
Connie Gindt , Missie Austin**

Connections for the 2018–2020 Midwestern Board

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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
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**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD 2018-2020**

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