



# Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

**MARCH  
2019  
Edition**

# The Vision

## 2019 Date to Remember

### MARCH 9

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### District III Roundtable at TV's Grand Event

2651 W Jefferson Ave,  
Trenton, MI 48183  
11:00am -3:00pm

### SPRING CONFERENCE

- April 26-28th  
Columbus Airport  
Marriott

### SI CONVENTION

- July 18-21, 2019  
Kuala Lumpur

## In This Issue

Articles from  
SI of:

Canton/Stark County  
Fond du Lac  
Greater Detroit  
Greater Macomb  
Grosse Pointe  
Kenton/Hardin  
County &  
Hancock County  
Milwaukee  
Monroe  
Mount Vernon &  
Knox County

Vicky Hicks  
-Spring Conference

Roseanne Horne  
-MWR Membership  
Chair

## Governor's Message



reetings and salutations

I'm sure that you'll all be thrilled to learn that I have some more thoughts about our biennium theme, Leadership is Fundamental. One of the issues I see is that leaders or potential leaders are deluged with bureaucratic work. These talented folks quickly become so consumed with measuring, reporting, numbers, numbers, metrics, metrics, metrics, blah, blah, blah, day in and out, that the leader within them often withers and dies.

I've been on the board for nine years now, and after a few years of watching things unfold as District Secretary (a great learning experience), I became worried that we're not creating the conditions that are conducive for building a deep bench of leaders – especially as our membership numbers shrink. Members who wish to lead, and not just manage, become frustrated by the bureaucracy to the point of not wanting to “lead” again or may even leave the organization altogether. This is one of the reasons why I revised the Governor's Award form and why we're trying to increase openness via communication opportunities across so-

cial media channels. The goal of the region board this biennium is to encourage leadership behaviors – with the caveat that you must know your Soroptimist stuff in order to lead Soroptimists.

What can we do or what can we do better, to help you pursue formal leadership opportunities within Soroptimist? A few of you may have shriveled up at the nine years on the region board line above. However, a two year commitment is not a life sentence and really, the nine years have flown by. As we finish up our first 100 years, what are some of the things that we can change about the way in which our organization functions? Who actually runs things anyway? Are we going to be a top down or bottom up organization? Are alignment and conforming more important than innovation and creativity?

So please put on your thinking caps and give me some feedback.



*Kris Armstrong  
Midwestern Region  
Governor*

### Soroptimist International Of Monroe

At our January Membership meeting we were joined by two guests, Donna Novak and Lisa Reaume. Donna is the mother of our most recent new member, Sarah McConnell and Lisa is a friend of Darcy Merritt's. We were so happy to learn at the end of the meeting that both of these women turned in their applications and became our newest members. With these two women we are now up to **43** members, which is wonderful.

Congratulation SI Monroe!



A Publication of Soroptimist International of the Americas

[https://soroptimist.imgix.net/05-for-members/for-members/best-for-women/BestforWomen\\_Fall2018.pdf](https://soroptimist.imgix.net/05-for-members/for-members/best-for-women/BestforWomen_Fall2018.pdf)

### Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention July 22-25, 2020



**Bellevue, Washington • July 22-25, 2020**

#### Save the Date

Join SIA for our convention in July 2020. Be there to kick off our 100th anniversary celebration!

**Be there to kick off the 100th Anniversary Celebration !**



**With help from our members, clubs, supporters and donors, we're making dreams come true for women & girls.**

## Soroptimist International Of Fond du Lac

Bitter cold, snow storms, icy roads – oh my! Like the rest of the Midwest and much of the country, life in Wisconsin has been, um, challenging recently. That’s not news, is it? But despite all that, SI Fond du Lac forges bravely ahead.

Coming up in March is the Women’s History event we sponsor in partnership with the Fond du Lac Public Library. As we wrote in last month’s Vision, SI Fond du Lac is eager to “meet” Carry A. Nation, the temperance-movement activist who made history in Fond du Lac with her “hatchet-swinging” attack on a local tavern. That establishment still stands, operating continuously since Nation’s visit in 1902, and is a local tourist attraction and popular “watering hole.” Soroptimist will host afternoon and evening programs featuring a Fond du Lac County Historical Society leader and history expert. We’ll welcome guests, serve refreshments and get a chance to tell the community more

about our club. And perhaps we’ll raise a toast at that historic tavern after the library event!

Also in March, Soroptimist teams will test their expertise in trivia by competing in a Literary Services fundraiser. Last year’s teams did extremely well. Sometimes our personal “storehouses of useless information” really do come in handy. We’ll let you know if we’re really as smart as we think we are!

Finally, congratulations to District 1 Director Susan Frankel and District 1 Secretary Connie Gindt for organizing and leading an information-dense and extremely helpful Roundtable in Rockford, Ill. On Feb. 23, despite bad weather, representatives from all six District 1 clubs attended, as well as Gov. Kris, and three additional former governors! Thanks, Susan and Connie, and congratulations on a great job!

--Renee DuFore Russell,  
President, SI Fond du Lac

### Midwest Region Membership Update:

Congratulations Midwest Region!! With the addition of SI Tri-State club, we now have **30** clubs in our region and another club will be chartered in April...SI Cleveland!

Our membership numbers are also increasing! There are now **728** members in our region which is an increase of **42** members since August 2018. We now have more members than we have had since 2015!! With just **3** months to go we only need **37** more members to hit our goal of **767** members. That is only about ONE new member per club. Let’s do it!

Here are some best practices some clubs are using to increase membership:

- Discount or pro-rate membership dues after

the first of the year

- Have a membership event (pot-luck, wine tasting, etc.)
- Make sure members always have Soroptimist business cards and carry them in their purse!
- Encourage members to bring guests to meeting or events

Use social media to advertise meetings and events  
Thank you to club presidents and membership chairs who have been responding to prospective member inquiries. These leads offer a great opportunity to gain a new member. Please follow up with them as soon as possible.

All the Best for Women,

Roseanne Horne  
Membership Chair- Midwest Region  
Past President- SI Grosse Pointe

# 2021 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

How is your club  
planning to  
celebrating 100  
years of service?



Since the founding of the very first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California in 1921, Soroptimist International (SI) has sought to bring about change to the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Through its global network of four Federations and its dedicated volunteer membership of over 75,000, SI is driven by its mission of transforming lives through education, empowerment and by enabling opportunities.

The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin soror meaning sister, and optima meaning best. And so Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as 'the best for women'.

**"WHEN WE EMERGE FROM THIS NIGHTMARE AND THE STRUGGLE IS OVER WE MUST BE STRONGER THAN EVER TO SEE THAT ALL OUR INFLUENCE IS ON THE SIDE OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE."**

**A BRITISH SOROPTIMIST 1939.**



US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt is the honored guest and speaker at a weekly luncheon of the Washington DC Club in 1943

**Soroptimist International 21st International Convention Coming July 18-21, 2019**



The international convention happens every 4 years and should be supported by all Federations. Does anyone in the Region know this?

Installation for President (Sharon Fisher) from SIA, treasurer (Kathy King) from SIA and our own Beverly Bucur from SIA, Midwestern Region, Illiana Club to remain as Director of Advocacy.

Please support SIA's installation of members by making your reservations today and attend

**S**oroptimist International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, July of 2019

Visit the SI Kuala Lumpur Convention Website [HERE](#)

**EDUCATE** **EMPOWER** **ENABLE**

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Spring Conference April 26-28, 2019



**2019 SPRING CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION**

*MARRIOTT COLUMBUS AIRPORT*

*1375 N. CASSADY AVENUE*

*COLUMBUS, OH 43219*

*PH – 614-475-7551*

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MARCH 31, 2019**

**ROOM RATE - \$129/NIGHT + TAX**

**If you need assistance or get locked out of the block, please contact**

**Vicky Hicks at**

**614-519-6408; email –**

**[vickylou56@gmail.com](mailto:vickylou56@gmail.com)**

See flyer/order form for T-shirts on next page



**SIMWR Charm  
Price: \$10**

Prices starting at \$17

These items will be for sale and available to order at 2019 Spring Conference in Columbus OH

For pre orders contact Christine Shearer at: [FowlerArtistic@gmail.com](mailto:FowlerArtistic@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE – all names must be on the room reservation if you are not traveling together and/or plan to arrive at different times. DO NOT make room reservations under your Club Treasurer name for club members (ie 4 rooms for Susie Smith) - they will not register you! Also, do not make room reservations unless you need them.**

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

# Team Soroptimist T-Shirts



Long Sleeve Shirts available in the following cuts and sizes:

Unisex: small-3X

Ladies cut scoop neck: small-2X  
(runs small so order up a size)

Price: \$22 for up to XL, \$25 for 2X-5X

Short Sleeve Shirts available in the following cuts and sizes:

Unisex v-neck small-5X

Ladies cut v-neck: x-small-2X  
(runs small so order up a size)

Price: \$17 for up to XL, \$20 for 2X-5X

Show your Soroptimist Team Spirit with one of these shirts at Spring Conference.

Name & Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate below the quantities of each size you would like to order.

Short Sleeve: Unisex: s \_\_\_ m \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ xl \_\_\_ 2x \_\_\_ 3x \_\_\_ 4x \_\_\_ 5x \_\_\_

Ladies cut: s \_\_\_ m \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ xl \_\_\_ 2x \_\_\_

Long Sleeve: Unisex: s \_\_\_ m \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ xl \_\_\_ 2x \_\_\_ 3x \_\_\_ 4x \_\_\_ 5x \_\_\_

Ladies cut: s \_\_\_ m \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ xl \_\_\_ 2x \_\_\_

Total Payment Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your check made out to Christine Shearer and sent to:

4590 Rockridge Way, Copley, OH 44321.

Questions: Email Christine at [FowlerArtistic@gmail.com](mailto:FowlerArtistic@gmail.com)

Orders and payment are due to Christine Shearer by March 31, 2019.

\*\*Shirts will be handed out at conference.\*\*



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

**"Charm"** your friends with a  
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region  
Charm



Have your orders to **Kris Armstrong** by **April 1st, 2011**

and dazzle your friends at this year's

Spring Conference in Columbus, OH

Buy two and make a pair of earring!

Just **\$10** ea.

All Proceeds Go To SIMWR Programs

Contact Kris Armstrong at:

[krisquin@msn.com](mailto:krisquin@msn.com)

The Soroptimist  
International Greater Detroit Presents



Inaugural Live Your Dream Award Bruch



The Live Your Dream Award, provides support to women striving to reach their dreams!

If you are interested in attending, would like to partner or donate please email [vlwaller11@yahoo.com](mailto:vlwaller11@yahoo.com)

There will be a Silent Auction, Raffle and Prizes.

Saturday, March 16, 2019  
11:00am-3:00pm  
Center for Creative Studies  
A. Alfred Taubman Center For Design Education  
485 W. Milwaukee Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

live  
**YOUR**  
dream  
education & training awards for women®

## Soroptimist International Of Kenton/Hardin County & Hancock County

### Celebration of Women

Soroptimist International of  
Kenton/Hardin County & Hancock County

Kenton Phone: 567-674-1023  
Hancock Phone: 419-979-9884

Email:  
sikenton@soroptimist.net  
sihancockcounty@yahoo.com

Please join the SI clubs of Kenton/Hardin County & Hancock County as we celebrate winners at our annual awards banquet. This is a night to celebrate women and girls making a difference in their own lives and in our communities.

**We are also very honored to welcome guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher, 2017 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award winner.**

Rev. Dr. Hatcher was honored for her tireless efforts in fighting abuse against women in the form of sex trafficking, prostitution, and domestic violence. She serves as the Sr. Project Manager Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Cook County, Chicago IL Sheriff's Office, an organization leading a national task force against these abuses.



**Date: Thursday March 21, 2019**

**Time: Dinner served at 6 PM**

*Dinner entertainment by Sweet Notes choral group.*

*Location: McIntosh Ballroom, Ohio Northern University, 525 S. Main St. Ada, Ohio 45810*

*Cost: \$20 (includes dinner)*

**Tickets available until Friday March 15.**

To Request Tickets: RSVP to [sikenton@soroptimist.net](mailto:sikenton@soroptimist.net) or [sihancockcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:sihancockcounty@yahoo.com)  
OR call Kenton 567-674-1023/Hancock 419-979-9884

## Committee for the Status of Women

Below is the FIRST PAGE ONLY of the REPORT OF ZERO DRAFT COMMITTEE ON THE CSW63 PRIORITY THEMES with topics that are currently missing from the document.

The member states are working on including these topics in the document. Soroptimists will be meeting and caucus on these topics. If anyone wants to view the entire document, please go to: [info@ngocsw.org](mailto:info@ngocsw.org)

### Missing Topics/Themes:

**Nutrition, indignity, mental illness & disability, LGBTQ, incarceration & child-detention, widows, divorcees, girl heads of household, stateless, IDP, asylum, irregular/undocumented migrants, informal settlements, media, academic, community/local/religious leadership, Edu (primary, secondary, tertiary, early childhood, training, resources & incentives), risk of violence associated w/ domestic tasks, human trafficking & slavery, child labor, exploitation of migrant workers, birth registration, migrant rights to health, edu & justice, female entrepreneurship, transferability of pensions, gender equity in retirement, universal basic income, dignified standard of living for women & dependants, land tenure & autonomous management of resources (inherent, bequeath, invest, etc). Local & national legislation/policy aligned to human rights obligations (explicit recognition of water, shelter, health, edu, asylum etc as human rights), female human rights defenders, women in peace building, corruption, accountability, effective redress, social factors which normalize/perpetuate violence, harmful traditional practices, gendered response of first responders & service providers, girl & youth voice, agency, representation and participation**

*Green-included*

*Red-Missing*

*Grey-incorporated in to revision*

### Initial Recommendations for the Agreed Conclusions of CSW63

Although the United Nations' Charter has mandated "*universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex*" since 1948, girls and women in every member state, low and high income alike, still, do not enjoy the dignity, autonomy, and equity that human rights legislation is intended to defend. Civil society reaffirms the progress made toward the realization of these rights over the subsequent seventy years through the Universal Declaration, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1995), the Kyoto Protocol (1997), Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (2000), Maputo Protocol (2003), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Istanbul Convention (2011), General Assembly Resolution 68/181 protecting women human rights defenders (2013), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), the Paris Climate Agreement (2016), as well as the recently adopted Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees (2018). Still, change on the ground has often been piecemeal and erratic, accompanied with violent backlashes against women and girls. Hence, there is a growing consensus that we need to refocus on a new dimension, an **ethical, moral and spiritual** one.

As we commence the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, civil society thanks member states in advance for exhibiting the receptive and collaborative spirit necessary to progress from repetitive rhetoric toward concrete action to dismantle all social, **political and cultural systems** which prevent the fulfillment of the aforementioned conventions and perpetuate gender inequity. Given sufficient **political will**, gender-sensitive social protection systems not only safeguard human rights but also standardize the quality of and access to goods

Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County

**KNOW HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Tuesday, March 19th | 6:30-8:30pm  
Lorain Branch Cleveland Public Library  
(8216 Lorain Ave)

Human trafficking and street prostitution are prevalent on the near west side of Cleveland. The goal of this gathering is to engage, educate and empower residents to better understand what human trafficking is, and what it isn't. Residents will be able to hear from survivors, local organizations and receive tools they can implement

*For more information, contact Renee Jones Empowerment Center at (216) 651-9601*



Save the Date! [#KnowHumanTrafficking](https://www.clevelandpubliclibrary.org/programs/anti-human-trafficking-awareness) Community Gathering on March 19, 2019.

### Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe partnered with the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church for a free presentation of the documentary *“Stuck in Traffic”* on Sunday, February 24th. The film is a raw and realistic exploration of the human trafficking epidemic in Michigan. The event also included discussion with local experts and advocates in the field. Further, literature was provided that offered information on safe and effective ways to support anti-trafficking initiatives. Over 65 people attended the event and many commented to SIGP members that the experience provided new insight into an issue they were unaware was so close home. Overall, this presentation model was a success and it is the hope of SIGP to do similar events with other partnering organizations in the future.

**Pictured below are Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Members and Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Committee**



## Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

### **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES**

SIGM has been investing time and energy on Anti-Human Trafficking. A year ago we set a goal to help establish and facilitate a Human Trafficking Task Force for Macomb County. We knew many groups were working in this field, yet there was no cohesive vision. Through our contacts, and being in the right place at the right time, we were able to participate in bringing together law enforcement, service providers, non-profits, for-profits, religious organizations and government agencies to sit at the same table. With our shared resources, knowledge and support, the Macomb County Anti-trafficking Taskforce (MCAT) was officially established.

The MCAT board is co-chaired by a service provider and a law enforcement representative. One of our Soroptimist sisters will serve as treasurer. MCAT will be sponsored by the Macomb County Sheriff Department and will be added to the Sheriff Department's official website and Facebook page in mid-March 2019. <https://sheriff.macombgov.org/Sheriff-Home>. MCAT's website will feature our vision, participating agencies and contact information. It has been a busy year for MCAT! Bylaws, background checks, trainings, memorandums of understanding (and let's not forget *lots of caffeine and chocolate*) has made our shared vision a reality. SIGM is honored to be one of the many organizations who helped make this task force a reality.

Then, in October SIGM sent one member, Susan Rhein, to attend the Human Trafficking: Invisible Conference, Oct 3-4, 2018, Saginaw, Michigan. It was the 4th semi-annual 2 day conference, sponsored by the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force. The agenda offered many break out sessions to choose from, including the growing role of social media in HT activities. Additionally, three SIGM Members attended the January 29, 2019, Human Trafficking Round Table for Practitioners and Advocates sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Michigan Abolitionist Project which was held in Troy, Michigan. Approximately 60 organizations participated.

One of our members has already taken the Train the Trainer training; in the next few months two additional SIGM members plan to also take that training.

More recently, SIGM learned of a new source of anti-HT training. The Anam Cara Group was founded very recently, August 2018. The founder, Jill Motyka, was the speaker at our February Program meeting. Jill's husband, a Warren, Michigan police detective was sent to HT Training and came back, realizing that, for all his experience, his previous knowledge of/outlook about Human Trafficking was outmoded and insufficient, as was the training that he received. Jill quit her full-time job and founded this group to offer training geared more specifically to law enforcement, with a survivor-centered approach. To date Anam Cara has provided training to over 200 law enforcement officers, from Center Line, Michigan, Calhoun and Macomb County, Michigan sheriff's departments, and Troy Michigan police, as well a number of survivor advocacy groups.

Anam Cara teaches three major goals:

- 1) Identify and recover survivors
- 2) Procure assistance and resources for survivors
- 3) Provide training to better insure prosecution of traffickers and buyers (pimps and johns).

Their ultimate goal is to create a mindset change in law enforcement's perception of HT survivors, and for law enforcement agencies to cultivate relationships with survivors.

In addition to Detective Motyka, there are two other officers who do the training. The three officers come with a vast experience in undercover work, FBI work, undercover surveillance techniques, social media exploitation, and internet based crimes. Since they are all still currently full time police officers, they need to use their furlough days to provide the training.

Anam Cara's trainings have been registered with MCOLES for use of the 302 PA Law Enforcement Distribution Funds. Last year Theresa Flores, of the SOAP PROJECT came to look at the training and was so impressed that she nominated the Anam Cara Group for one of her Liberator Awards. Anam Cara recently won that award in their category, and Theresa has invited Jill Motyka to serve on the SOAP PROJECT'S Michigan board.



**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

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

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

Soroptimist International Of Grosse Pointe

Soroptimist International Of Milwaukee



Soroptimist International Of Mount Vernon and Knox County



**For more details about these up coming events visit [www.simwr.org](http://www.simwr.org)**

## 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

**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



**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

### Emails Contacts

Governor-Kris Armstrong - ([krisquin@msn.com](mailto:krisquin@msn.com))

Governor Elect -Darcy Merritt - ([dmerritt81@hotmail.com](mailto:dmerritt81@hotmail.com))

Secretary - Missie Austin - ([missieaustin@gmail.com](mailto:missieaustin@gmail.com))

Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - ([audreyjarv@gmail.com](mailto:audreyjarv@gmail.com))

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**  
**Like us on Facebook at @simwrgov**

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS  
MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD 2018-2020

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