



The Vision



Governor's Message

Midwestern Region Governor Darcy Merritt

Greetings fellow Soroptimists,

I hope you are looking forward to our District meeting as much as I am. Our meeting will be virtual this year and without a doubt I know it will be amazing. The board decided on one District meeting for all districts the weekend of October 23rd and 24th. We will have specific times out to you in the next few weeks. I realize for some of you this virtual world is not your first choice but for now it is the safest choice for our members.

Hopefully you are scheduling your zoom meetings and keeping in touch with your members and if your state allows for outdoor gatherings please consider doing this while the weather permits. Before you know it we will be indoors and only able to do the virtual meetings or small indoor gatherings. Our mission for economic empowerment for women and girls has never been greater. We must continue our work even during this Global Pandemic. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking isn't taking a break during this pandemic and neither can we. Make sure to invite your board to your meetings whether they are on zoom, go to meeting or outside gatherings. I know you are all working hard to raise women up and I have no doubt you will all find a way to do this in our current environment. I look forward to our Virtual District meeting and when we can meet face to face in Fond du lac at Spring conference. Stay well and I hope to see you all soon.



Inside
September 2020
Edition are:

Articles from
your
Midwestern
Region
and
Board
Members,
Chairs
&
MUCH MORE!



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

SI of Fond du Lac, WI

SI-Fond du Lac is keeping on keeping on!
Our county has just been pushed back to Phase I due to COVID cases, so our first meeting of the year is planned to be out of doors, in a shelter at the park, with a Zoom connection to include as many of us as possible. We will be installing officers and doing awards (longevity, etc.), which normally would have been done at the end of spring. It's BYO: bandana (mask), blanket, bug spray, bottle/buffet (or eat ahead, no food sharing), and butt spot (if you don't like picnic tables). We will work on trying to Facebook live the event, if you follow Soroptimist International - Fond du lac on that platform.
6:15pm CST Wednesday, September 2nd.

We managed a few small in-person meetings over the summer, including two book club get togethers. We read *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin, and *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

We will be kicking off a CLUB 250 raffle soon, where you can pay just \$1/week for the chance to win \$100! (The \$1 per week is all up front, for a very reasonable total of \$52; contact any of us if you'd like a ticket.) The 52nd drawing will be for \$500, and all of the \$100 winners will be re-entered throughout the year. H/t to Bloomington-Normal, go Pack!

Our other events are postponed or cancelled at this time, while we go forward with the raffle, looking into ways to aid local relief efforts (donations, maybe a Little Free Pantry), development of a high school scholarship award, and our annual FDL landmark ornament sale! This year's ornament features a local bridal shop called Edith's, where many of us have gotten wedding and formal attire over the years. It's a long-lived, hometown, Main Street business.

Thanks, and let me know if you have questions,
Linda Uselmann
Pres, SI-FDL

SI of Greater Macomb

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment, the County Clerk/Registrar of Deeds of Macomb County, Fred Miller and his team invited Macomb County residents to submit items for a digital presentation. SIGM was honored to put together (on short notice) a submission of gratitude for all the work women have done in the past and honor the work that is still to be done. (It is on the next page) Our annual summer picnic felt a little different this year. Recent Past President Jackie Wajer and her SIGM member daughter Katie Closs graciously hosted us in their backyard for a socially distanced and masked (when necessary) cookout. The food was delicious, the laughs kept the neighbors wondering what we were up to and the alcohol was flowing. By alcohol flowing we mean HAND SANITIZER! Despite the necessary precautions, we had a great time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Finch
President SIGM
734-991-3143

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb

Our Vision

Women and girls will have access to resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams

Our Mission

Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb celebrates the Centennial of the 19th Amendment with Macomb County and Macomb County Clerk Fred Miller.

Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb has served Macomb County for 75 years. Our club honors the legacy of the women who worked to ensure our right to vote. As we move into the next 100 years of the 19th Amendment, SIGM will continue to serve the women and girls of Macomb County.



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🌐 si-greatermacomb.org

P.O. Box 380364
Clinton Township, MI 48038



SI of GROSSE POINTE

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Sunday, August 30, was a perfect day for yoga, meeting a flock of chickens, a pair of great pyrenees, a very large rabbit, and a tribe of tiny goats. A group of Soroptimists from Grosse Pointe and Macomb County, gathered at the Youngblood Vineyard, in Ray, Mi. (about 10 minutes from Romeo) for a private class, featuring an hour of yoga , facilitated by all the friendly animals in the barnyard.

After class, the group convened on the farmhouse porch for a 7 wine tasting of the locally grown and produced Youngblood wines. Participants learned the history of the family owned operation, that has moved from traditional farming to modern winemaking, under the direction of the third and fourth generations of family members.

Youngblood Vineyard offers tiny goat yoga classes, open to the public, every Saturday and Sunday at noon, weather permitting. The Soroptimists gave the morning 18 thumbs up!

Those attending included:

MARYA MALKOVICH , ELLEN CHAPIN ,LAURA MC COURT , PEGGY HART , HELEN CLARREN, CAROLYN BARTH, TERRY WELCH , DARLENE SULAD, AUBREY DEE (MACOMB), KATIE CLOSS (MACOMB), MAUREEN ANTHONY , ROSEANNE HORNE, MELANIE VERBRUGGE , KATHERINE BAETZ, NANCY KELLEY, AMANDA MELCART (MACOMB), JESSICA FINCH (MACOMB), JACKIE WAJER (MACOMB)



Top, left: Helen Clarren is feeling the love from this very large dog!
Above, right: Ellen Chapin with several barnyard animals.
Left photo: Laura McCourt becomes acquainted with a chicken.

SI OF TRENTON

SI of Trenton Area Bottle Return Fund-raiser

During the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Michiganders were unable to return their bottles and cans for the ten-cent deposit paid on each. After three months of beverage consumption, many people just wanted the bags full of plastic, glass, and aluminum out of their houses. With that in mind, Abby Premoe's brainstorming idea and volunteers of SI of Trenton Area netted \$3150.50 in deposit redemption after collecting 25,000 cans and bottles. Shared Facebook posts got the word out. New member, Roni Drakos, undertook the tremendous task of chairing this fundraising event. Cathy Infantado drove around picking up donations and taking them to storage areas. Many garages, sheds, and storage units were filled to capacity until all of the bottles and cans were systematically collected, sorted, and returned to various stores by several Soroptimists. Tessa Smith and husband Doug cashed in over 18,000 empties! Former member and Soroptimist supporter, Catherine Teifer offered her property to store the final collection of bottles and cans. She most generously matched the amount raised up to \$2500. Theresa Bizoe, Director of Philanthropy and Capital Projects at First Step accepted the \$5000 check on behalf of First Step, a safe-haven house for victims and children of domestic and sexual violence.

If you are interested in learning more about the Trenton Area Soroptimists and our other activities, check out our page on Facebook@Soroptimist Trenton, MI or sioftrentonarea@gmail.com.



Donna Fickeisen



Roni Drakos & Barbara Saunders Bottle & can sorting



Doug & Tessa Smith, Theresa Bizoe, Abby Premoe, Roni Drakos Starr, Cathy Infantado

SI OF TRENTON



Help us raise money for First Step Domestic Violence Shelter

During this pandemic, domestic violence has spiked. So the need for help has also. The Soroptimist Club of Trenton Area is trying to help alleviate some costs through a bottle drive. We know many people have bottles stacking up at their homes and we would love to take them off your hands! Message or contact us and we can arrange a time to do a no contact porch pickup.

Abby Premoe- 734-755-7926

Or Facebook Message us by going to

<https://www.facebook.com/Soroptimist-Trenton-MI-139263856117963/>

If you or anyone you know is suffering from domestic violence, please call 734-722-6800



Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago



Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago
<http://www.si-suburbanchicago.org>
Education Scholarship 250/25 Fundraiser 2021

2021 SISC 250/25 Club	 <small>SOROPTIMIST Leading to Dreams</small>	2021 SI of Suburban Chicago 250/25 Club	Pull starts 1/1/21
Name: _____		52 Weekly Drawings- \$25 1 Year End drawing - \$250	
Phone: _____		<i>Proceeds will benefit local women and girls through educational grants and programs leading to social and economic empowerment.</i>	
Email: _____		Winners will be notified by phone or email. Checks will be mailed. Winners are put back in the pot. Winners will be posted in our web site, www.si-suburbanchicago.org	
No. 0001		No. 0001	

Please help support Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Scholarships with purchasing our raffle tickets now for winning our 250/25 raffle drawings starting Jan.1st 2021... purchase ticket cost is \$25.00 for 1 ticket You can purchase tickets via our online website link below (or by contacting our club);

https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250

Each week during 2021, there will be a \$25 drawing. The winners will be put back into the pot for subsequent drawings. During week 52 (12/31/21) there will be an additional drawing for \$250. Winners will be notified by telephone or email and winnings will be sent in the mail.

Winners will also be posted on our website, see our winners for this year's 2020 drawings :

https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250/2020

The funds we raise with the tickets we sell will go towards our three main scholarships we award to the winner of submitted candidates throughout the year;

Live Your Dream Award assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Virginia Wagner Award is assistance for any woman pursuing her bachelor, masters or doctoral degree. Named for a past Soroptimist International Regional Governor who believed in higher education for women. This grant is based on academic achievement and financial need.

GED Grant was created due to one of our members identifying a need for women who did not have a high school diploma. Higher education, better jobs or other goals related to training and education require that diploma or the GED certificate. This grant awards \$125 to two women currently enrolled in a GED program and covers the cost of the certification test.

We & the women who receive our scholarships Thank You for your generous support!
 Marie Denise Czech -President of Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago &
 Marie Delos Santos - Co-President of Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago

Soroptimist LAB

Members of Midwestern Region had the opportunity to be on a call with approximately 200 other Soroptimists from around the world with SI President Sharon Fisher on her President's Appeal - the Road to Equality. This is a great opportunity open to all members. In order to know that these Zoom Calls are going on, please "like" on Facebook the Soroptimist International Facebook page. They send out announcements about upcoming zoom events. Those on this call included: Cheryl Fouts, Vicky Hicks, Fran Ingram, Bev Bucur, Mary Ellen Burke and former Midwestern Region member, Helen Bailey. It was a very inspiring zoom call that shed light on several efforts being made for the President's Appeal. We encourage all of you to check out this opportunity. See Mary Ellen's update below.

**Vicky Hicks
2014-16 Midwestern Region Governor
SI Columbus & Franklin Co.**

The Road to Equality....Soroptimist International Webinar by SoroptimistLab Thursday, August 20, 2020

Sharon Fisher, SI President started the presentation by stating the theme of the Road to Equality will be "Leave No One Behind". The main way to create change is through education. SI continues to work with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to improve the lives of women locally as well as globally. To create change will take more than a village. We all need to work together. Since COVID has hit the world we have discovered that "we are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat." COVID has increased all forms of gender inequity including child marriage, female genitalia mutilation, domestic violence, human trafficking, as well as more refugees and elder women without adequate care.

Olga Sidenko, President Appeal Coordinator from a Switzerland club spoke about migration of refugees, human trafficking and domestic violence. Refugees are seeking to escape violence, and war and are in danger of being raped. Human traffickers are taking advantage of these vulnerable women and are "rescuing" them only to capture them into the life of prostitution. Domestic violence is also on the rise due to COVID.

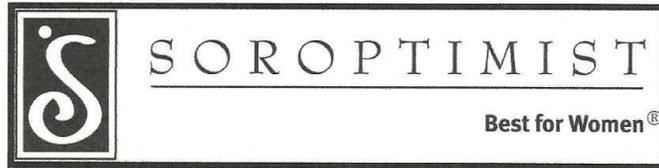
Ayushi Kundu, President Appeal Coordinator from a SI club in India spoke about child marriage, older women and FGM. Ten-year-old girls are being married to men twice their age, thus being deprived of continuing their education. These girls become pregnant before becoming a woman. They create more children than they can financially support, which perpetuates the cycle of child marriages. During COVID, many families have been struggling so more young girls have become victims of child marriages. Older women have experienced more financial hardships during COVID, causing isolation, violence, discrimination, and lack of adequate health care. FGM has also continued causing pain, healthcare problems, and sometimes death. SI Presidential Appeal Road to Equality funds are currently being channeled to Sierra Leone, Gambia, Somalia, Kenya, and Nigeria to alleviate these problems.

The final speaker was Kyayanga Wisike from SI of Nairobi, Kenya. She spoke about the challenges women and girls face in Kenya, especially in the villages. Women are the "beasts of burden" and are expected to work the land, create children and carry the water. They face violence, child marriage, FGM, and human trafficking. Men have total control over their lives and women are expected to obey. They are disciplined, abused, and sometimes assaulted. Women are valued by the number of children they produce. They are discarded if infertile. Some men marry as many as fifteen wives. During COVID, more girls are at risk for FGM since they are no longer in school. Currently prevention programs, education, funding for support, and family court cases of domestic violence are ongoing. The goal is to change the laws and the current culture through education and creating women role models.

Soroptimists are encouraged to take action in providing support on these six injustices done to women and girls by taking action in their own communities. Unfortunately women in most of the world are victims of child marriage, female genitalia mutilation, domestic violence, human trafficking, as well as inadequate care for refugees and elder women.

--Summary by Mary Ellen Burke, SI of Grosse Pointe, MI

Roseanne Horne
c/o SIGP
1247 Elford Ct
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MI 48236



Name: _____

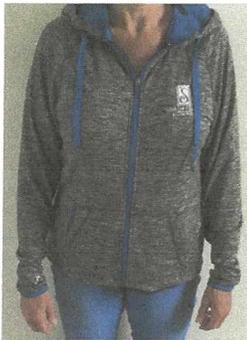
Shipping Address: _____

Shipping City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Soroptimist club: _____



Ladies (S) _____

Force (2XL) _____

Ladies (M) _____

Force (3XL) _____

Ladies (L) _____

Force (XL) _____

Ladies (XL) _____

Ladies (2XL) _____

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery - **White** or **Blue**

Cash: _____

Check: _____

Credit Card: _____

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

updated 5/27/20



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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SI Monroe County

Governor-Elect *Chris Fowler Shearer*

SI Cleveland

Region Secretary *Shelia Zingler-Gilbert*

SI Fond du Lac

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 *Ruth Waggoner*

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District II Secretary *Laura Ferguson*

SI Kenton-Hardin County

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SI Flat Rock Area

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SI Columbus & Franklin County

District IV Secretary *Mary Lorenzo*

SI Canton Stark County

CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!
WWW.SIMWR.ORG



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Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2020 / 2022 Board



Front Row L to R: Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey; Region Governor Darcy Merritt; Region Governor-Elect Christine Fowler Shearer; D4 Secretary Mary Lorenzo
Back Row L to R: D2 Secretary Laura Ferguson; D2 Director Ruth Waggoner; D3 Secretary Patricia Cavell; D3 Director Kellie Klingel; D1 Secretary Connie Gindt; D4 Director Abby Bouton; D1 Director Susan Frankel;
Not pictured: Region Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert .

Connections for the 2020–2022 Midwestern Board

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Governor Elect -- Christine Fowler Shearer—(fowlerartistic@gmail.com)

Secretary— **Shelia Zingler-Gilbert** - (sheilasifdl@gmail.com)

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

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

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)

Soroptimist Summary (soroptimistsummary.org)

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

Tweet us [@SoroptimistMWR](https://twitter.com/SoroptimistMWR)

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