



# The Vision



## DREAM BIG CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

You've probably heard a few things about the Dream Big Campaign that is underway by SIA HQ and a group of Ambassadors from the SIA Regions. The USA contingency of Ambassadors includes six (6) members of Midwestern Region. They include Cheryl Fouts, Diane Thompson, Kris Armstrong, Missie Austin, Vicky Hicks and Vivian Walczesky.

Members of the Ambassadors have been providing input to the Campaign goals and ideas to the Executive Committee for almost a year. They are available to your clubs for individual workshops or Zoom calls to provide your club with more information and interesting ways your club can contribute as a whole or how you as an individual member can contribute. For instance, St. Monroe County in Michigan is selling a Bean Soup mix which includes all the beans along with the recipe to finish the soup. Their sales have been great and they have sold out their jars of beans at several venues. St. Columbus & Franklin Co. is having "birthday raffles" at each meeting with members bringing a gift bag to the meeting the month of their birthday. Tickets are then sold for \$1.00 each. They have raised approximately \$150 thus far. Another idea that was presented at District 2 & 4 meeting was for individual members to save 10 cents a day or \$36.50 for the year and donate it to the Dream Big Campaign. Any donation that you make as an individual will count toward your Laurel Society membership level.

But the SIA team has been working diligently behind the scenes. One interesting donation came from QVC with a donation of \$100,000 in coordination with Women's History Month of March. You can find out more about this donation on the SIA Facebook page or if you shop at QVC as it is mentioned there too.

With a goal of \$15M dollars for this campaign, we are currently 20% of the goal with a total of \$3M raised as of March 14 from 1700 donors. That's awesome.

How will the funds raised be used? The goal is to help 500,000 women and girls in the next few years. It will allow for the expansion, delivery, and sustainability of our Dream Programs (Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It Be It) for decades to come again benefitting more women and girls year after year. Finally, there will be a workshop at Midwestern Region Spring Conference about the Campaign and a sheet of neat ideas of how your club can raise funds to meet the goal.

The Soroptimist members of Midwestern Region are some of the most generous women I have ever met. Let's make a big impact on this Dream Big campaign and help more women and girls.

Yours in service,  
Cheryl, Diane, Kris, Missie, Vicky & Vivian



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL – 100TH BIRTHDAY**

The **April** issue of THE VISION will be my last edition! I have had the opportunity to see many amazing publications from around our Region while I have been your Vision Editor. One of you very talented newsletter editors or graphic designers should consider volunteering to become the next Vision editor! Please contact me at [braunross@aol.com](mailto:braunross@aol.com) or contact the Region Governor, Christine. We need you now!! Thank you, Ross Braun

Inside  
April 2022  
Edition are:

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



SOROPTIMIST  
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Soroptimist



**Akron, Ohio**

## SI of Grosse Pointe

# Soroptimist Grosse Pointe is happy to announce ... Another AMAZING Awards Banquet

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) held its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Assumption Greek Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores, MI. Forty people attended the event, which included 27 SIGP members, 5 awardees, one award judge and other guests including Soroptimist District III Director, Kellie Klingel.

The first place Live Your Dream (LYD) winner, Nealmetria Loper, was awarded \$3,000. The second-place LYD winner, Delia Mustin, \$2,000. The third-place award winner, Denise Sargent, \$1,000, and this year we gave a fourth-place award of \$1,000 to Danyelle Easley.

District III Director, Kellie Klingel announced that our first-place winner, Nealmetria Loper, was the district winner and will be given an additional monetary amount at the Regional Spring Conference.



(L-R) Delia Mustin, Nealmetria Loper, Lavina Hutchinson, Dr. Janice Brown, O.P., and Kimberly Williams.

Not pictured: Denise Sargent and Danyelle Easley



At left, SIGP member Sara Baker, is a LYD winner at the local, district and federation levels, holds a Bachelor's degree in Special Education, and is working on a Master's degree in Educational Studies at the University of Michigan. Here she and SIGP member Diana Langlois, Mentoring for Success Chair, hug. Sara gave a stirring speech of her progression from arriving in the U.S. into a violent home life and escaping that situation to becoming a student at U-M. graduate!



Soroptimist District III Director Kellie Klingel (L) presents Nealmetria Loper (R) with her district award while Bette Lepouttre, LYD chairwoman looks on.

## SI of Grosse Pointe, continued

### And the winners of **FOR THE LOVE OF WINE** raffle are . . .

On February 9, 2022, SIGP's business meeting included a "Wine Chat" (see below) and the FOR THE LOVE OF WINE raffle drawing. The drawing took place at the Grosse Pointe Public Library-Ewald Branch and was run by SIGP members Diana Langlois, Ross Braun, Mary Ellen Burke, and Bette Lepouttre. Congratulations to the winners! We are happy to report that the proceeds from the raffle, including donations and less expenses, totaled \$7500.31!

1. Mary Clare Toffanetti, SIGP member
2. Sue Lewandowski, SIGP member
3. Chrissy Ventimiglia, daughter of SIGP member Kathy DiCenzo
4. Diane Kashuba, SIGP member
5. Amanda Melkert, member of SI Macomb
6. Louise Taylor, friend of SIGP member Diana Langlois



## “Free Money” fundraising! Returnable bottles & cans RETURN!

You'd think Roseanne Horne, Nancy Solak, Mary Ellen Burke and Carol Hofer, among others, would be tired of returning bottles and cans. But no! It's more like they've got the process down. It goes much more quickly with practice!

Returnables (NOT water or wine bottles), but bottles and cans that had something fizzy in them such as cola, beer and flavored carbonated water garner money.

**Since COVID began, our club has returned and collected close to \$9,000!**



*Photo by lacey-williams-jwh\_kOK\_QOM-unsplash*

Thank you to everyone who has donated cans/bottles or donated the money they collected from returning their own.

## SI of Flatrock

Soroptimist of the Flat Rock Area celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimist International by supporting 13 local charities. The club voted on the charities from a list of local ones that helped women and girls. In the era of Covid little personal contact was advised so the porches of two members were used for dropping off and some members had their donations sent by UPS or Amazon.



The January charity was the Souper Bowl food pantry at Faith Lutheran Church. Many of our club are members of the church and give food or money so there is no real record of donations. At least \$120 and food were given. The February charity was Mimi's Mission which now is focused on the autistic community. They had a broader scope but have scaled back because of Covid. There is also a program through the River Rouge Police Department to give food to hungry children by giving McDonald's coupons directly to the children. Two \$5.00 gift cards, \$250 in cash and craft supplies were donated. March brought a fun trip to Children With Hair Loss to deliver hair "pretties" and a check for \$140. The mission of CWHL is to give wigs to children at no cost to their families and was founded by our own club member, Regina Villemure. Three members enjoyed an afternoon playing with the

items that are included with the wigs. Many of the "pretties" were made by our members. Plus a hair donation was made by a friend. Regina reports that CWHL is very busy in 2022 and has given wigs to 40 children by the end of January.

The April charity was First Step, a group supporting victims of domestic violence. Our members donated liquid laundry soap, towels, cleaning products, a mop, many other items they requested and \$165.00. A van load of children's items was taken to the June charity, Downriver Foster Closet. This group helps foster parents by providing things that the children need as they frequently arrive at a foster home with nothing. The group was delighted to receive three bicycles, approximately ten bags of clothing in all sizes, diapers, two suitcases, toys and a check for \$234.15. Helping Hands Food Pantry, part of Community Lutheran Church, received our June donation of \$285 and food.

July was our annual baby shower for Downriver Pregnancy Resource Center at Flat Rock Historical Society's Smith Hotel. This group helps mothers during their pregnancy and for a time after the children are born. Soroptimists and their guests enjoyed delicious food and heard about the Center's activities. The Center received many lovely baby items and over \$300 from the club. A portion of the money will be used to make the Center more easily accessible. \$170 and other needed items were donated to Vista Maria which helps young women. Some of the donations included craft supplies and shower caddies. Ryan's Friends, our September recipient, was founded by one of our members, Evelyn Kosowski, in memory of her son, Ryan. Our club gave them \$880.00 toward their work in the community especially with six food pantries.

Our October charity was Gibraltar Food Pantry, part of Gibraltar First Congregational Church. We donated \$130.00 plus food and household items including 26 bars of Dial soap. November was Christnet which helps the homeless. The club has hosted a dinner for them for many years, but Covid prevented this in 2021 so jeans, household cleaners and soap, gloves and hats and other necessities were donated plus a check for \$190.00. December continued our annual support of two groups, Children's Hospital Toy Closet and Adopt a Child. We each brought a \$10.00 item which we raffled off and made \$670.00 for the hospital which gives the toys to children receiving medical care. The second charity of the month was Adopt a Child. The club always sponsors two little girls and purchases winter coats, hats and gloves, pjs, boots and other necessities for the girls who attend a school in Riverview. The items cost the club \$300.00. Members sponsored ten more girls and purchased these items for them.

Flat Rock Club's observance of 100 years of Soroptimist International has shown the generosity of our members. We have learned more about the needs of our community and helped to make the community aware of our willingness to help. Many, many thanks to all our members for all you have done to celebrate this milestone. *Mary Dale Dickerson*



## SI of Trenton and Downriver Area

### 2022 Human Trafficking Summit

Soroptimist International of Trenton and Downriver Area will be hosting a Human Trafficking Summit on Saturday, April 9, at Summit Academy, 18601 Middlebelt, in Romulus. The day starts at 9:30 A.M. with coffee and donuts, includes a boxed lunch, and ends at about 2:30 P.M. The symposium is available FREE of charge but is LIMITED to 160 participants, so early registration is important to guarantee your seat. Detroit is ranked as having one of the highest number of sex trafficking victims and is included in a global epidemic that annually nets several billion dollars.

Parents, educators, school bus drivers, school counselors, health care workers, law enforcement officers, and community advocates are welcome to learn how traffickers lure victims; how the internet, gaming apps, and social media are used in human trafficking; how to recognize victims of trafficking; how to report human trafficking; and how to talk to children about human trafficking.

Representative specialists from the FBI, Michigan State Police, Michigan Abolitionist Project, Avalon Healing Center, Sparrow Freedom Project, Truckers Against Trafficking, human trafficking survivors, and others will be the designated speakers. There will also be a question-and-answer session after each panel presentation.

Trenton and Downriver Area Soroptimist is a volunteer group that offers service by way of fundraising and donations, public awareness/educational programs, and hands-on assistance. These women give their time and talents to local food pantries, Vista Maria, First Step, Sparrow Project, Stanford House, Oakwood Beaumont Southshore, and to area women's health institutions. This workshop is funded, in part, from the "Your Cause, Your Choice" grant from the DTE Foundation.

The Trenton and Downriver Area Soroptimist organization meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Woodhaven Community Center, and the fourth Tuesday at Portofino's of Wyandotte. All women are welcome to attend. You may contribute to the foundations that the Soroptimists support on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://krogercommunityrewards.com). If you are interested in learning more about the Trenton and Downriver Area Soroptimists and our other activities, check out our page on Facebook@SoroptimistInternationalOfTrentonAndDownriverArea or [sioftrentonanddownriverarea@gmail.com](mailto:sioftrentonanddownriverarea@gmail.com).

### 2022 Trenton and Downriver Area's Award Banquet

Soroptimist International of Trenton and Downriver Area began the celebration with the induction of four new members: Cindy Gouth, Chanel Olson, Tina Thompson, and Rebecca McNally. The Sparrow Freedom Project, a survivor-led organization dedicated to empowering those who have been exploited and trafficked, was then presented a \$7800 check from funds donated from the "Battle for Freedom" show. Annual scholarship awards were next issued to five deserving women.

The **Virginia Wagner Award** is judged based on the goals and accomplishments of a woman who is pursuing a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree. **Kathryn Crabb**, this year's winner, graduated with high honors with her Associate in Arts - Human Services from Washtenaw Community College. She is in the final stage of completing her bachelor's degree in social work, on the dean's list, from Eastern Michigan University. Her plan is to enroll in a master's program in the fall. Ms. Crabb has been a Girl Scout Leader for five years; Chair of the Board Development Committee for Child's Hope; and secretary of the Hedke Elementary School PTO, where her daughter was a student. Despite many personal, emotional, and physical challenges, including triple negative breast cancer and a brain tumor that was removed in 2016, Kathryn took control of her life after ending a turbulent relationship. The services she received from social workers helping her deal with breast cancer and domestic abuse issues led her to her choice of the profession of social work. "Cancer and domestic violence will never define me, however, that trauma is part of who I am today and because of that, I will never be silent again when speaking out against any type of injustice."

### **2022 Trenton and Downriver Area's Award Banquet, continued**

The **Live Your Dream Award** was established in 1972 by Soroptimist International to assist women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills-training or undergraduate degree program necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family. Each year, over \$2.8 million is awarded to more than 1,800 women in Soroptimist's member countries and territories. The women receiving these financial awards may use them for any costs associated with their educational efforts, including tuition, books, childcare, and transportation.

The Soroptimist of Trenton and Downriver Area's Live Your Dream recipient finished a licensed practical nurse program at Detroit Business Institute in Riverview in December and will begin an accelerated registered nurse program in April. **Celeste Salih** is a mother of three facing the joys and challenges of being a single mom. After a death in the family, she faced financial difficulties, but she is determined to make life better for her children. Her catalyst to reach her goals was a quote: "You're scared to take a four-year course because you're twenty-eight; and by the time you finish, you'll be thirty-two. Whether you take that course or not, in four years' time, you'll still be thirty-two. So why not be thirty-two doing something you love?"

The **Soroptimist Prime award** is exclusive to SI of Trenton and Downriver Area. High school girls residing in Allen Park, Brownstown, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Woodhaven, or Wyandotte are eligible to apply. The Soroptimist of Trenton Area High School Girls' Award honors young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts.

The Soroptimist Prime award winner is Grosse Ile High School senior, **Lauren Hinzmann**. Through volunteering in Girl Scouts, church, National Honor Society, ChristNet, or Girl Up, Lauren feels satisfaction and happiness knowing that she has made a positive impact on her community. The club in which she is the most active in now is Girl Up, which is an organization under UNICEF to advance girls' rights and opportunities as leaders in their community. Girls from multiple countries participate in campaigns, fundraisers, and projects to better the quality of life for women and children globally. The latest club project was collecting and distributing over a thousand feminine hygiene products to women and girls in need, especially during the pandemic. Lauren intends to continue her volunteer and support of women and girls in her community well beyond high school.

### **2022 Trenton and Downriver Area's Award Banquet, continued**

When Soroptimist of Trenton and Downriver Area lost long-time member Barbara Rigg three years ago, her family graciously donated funds for us to give monetary awards to deserving individuals in her memory. This year we solicited nominations for outstanding women who go above and beyond in volunteering her time to making a significant contribution to her community over an extended period of time and who are role models of compassion and service, striving to make their community and world a better place.

**Sue Pilon** is this year's first **Barbara Rigg Memorial Award** recipient. She has served on Wyandotte's Cultural and Historical Commission for fifteen years and is the current president. Under her leadership, the Museums campus of four buildings are maintained and improved so special events can be held throughout the year. Hundreds of Downriver residents visit each year for family-oriented events and to search the historical archives. Besides chairing the monthly meetings, Sue volunteers for many other tasks including cleaning out the museum storage areas and dressing in costume as a presenter for their biggest fundraising event - The Cemetery Walk. Sue also recently retired from her job at Downriver Community Conference as Chief Operating Officer, as well as the Board of Directors of Everybody Ready - an early childhood advocacy agency for many years. Sue is also an active volunteer with Gift of Life of Michigan, after undergoing a tissue transplant following a bilateral mastectomy for breast cancer. She uses her experience to speak at events and TV interviews to help educate the public about the importance of signing up as an organ/tissue donor. The award check is designated by Sue Pilon to benefit the Wyandotte Museum.

Our second **Barbara Rigg Memorial Award** recognizes **Sarah Pettigrew**. Sarah has been a volunteer leader with the Wayneright Community Meals Program, also known as the Wyandotte Soup Kitchen, for over fifteen years. At this free community meal program, Sarah helps plan, prepare, and serve meals twice per week to an average of fifty-five people, but it has been up to as many as 150. Besides a hot meal, guests also receive a bag lunch-to-go, and may also receive goods such as paper products, personal care items, and other pantry staples. In addition, she orchestrates the collection of non-perishable items, packs care packages for holiday meals, and organizes an "adopt a kid" program. Sarah's monetary award will be donated to Wayneright Community Meals Program.

If you are interested in learning more about the Trenton and Downriver Area Soroptimists and our other activities, check out our page on Facebook@SoroptimistInternationalOfTrentonAndDownriverArea or [sioftrentonanddownriver-area@gmail.com](mailto:sioftrentonanddownriver-area@gmail.com).



## SI of Trenton and Downriver Area Photos



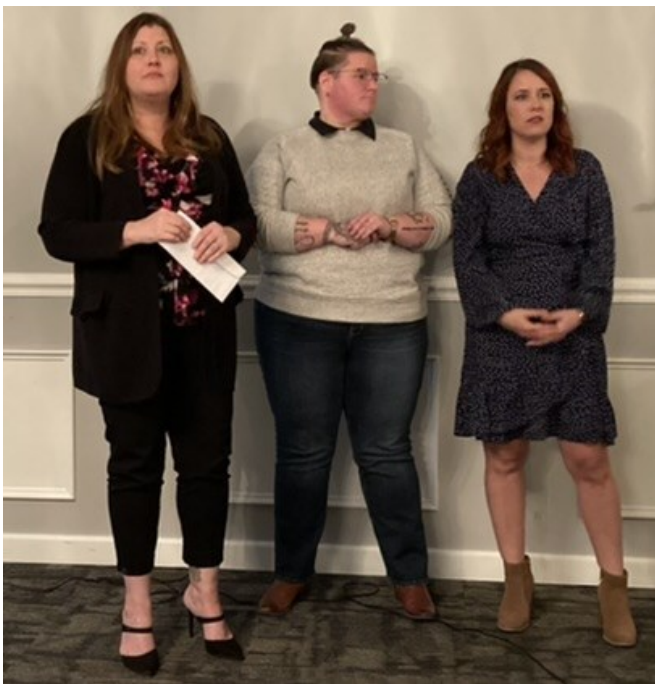
Barbara Rigg Memorial winner, Sue Pilon



Elizabeth Carter is representing Sarah Pettigrew



New members Cindy Gouth, Tina Thompson and Chanel Olson



Sparrow Freedom Project—Chrissy Hemphill, Tracey Cooley and Soroptimist President Abby Premoe



Winners—Lauren Hinzmann, Kathryn Crabb, and Celeste Salih

## SI of Dayton

**Our Soroptimist International - Dayton club is stronger than ever; remaining resilient, committed and focused our SI-Dayton club has stayed strong by doing our heart's work of bringing attention to our missing and runaway children through our Missing Children Poster and STOP sticker programs. Although COVID-19 changed how we interact all over the world, our SID club has maintained support from our members by making our mission a priority, our children are being found and vulnerable individuals are being identified due to calls reported to our local and national hotlines.**



**After two years of cancellations, we're so ready to honor the current 2022 and the last two years 2020 and 2021 education award recipients during our April 30th Educational Awards Brunch. Our club members are gearing up to celebrate six wonderful young women. The event will take place at The Dayton Woman's Club.**

**A major part of our fundraising efforts during the event is the Silent Auction; in preparation for last year's canceled Brunch, beautiful baskets were prepared by our SI-Dayton members to be auctioned. Thanks to our Susan Gruenberg, the baskets are 'basking' in the basement of Susan's home, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Gruenberg.**

**We look forward to sharing more in the next Vision!**

## SI of Dayton, continued

**Soroptimist International - Dayton and Abolition Ohio were invited to speak during a United Women in Faith monthly meeting bringing together Restoration and Normandy United Methodist Churches. Formerly known as United Methodist Women - United Women in Faith expands ecumenically the mission “for women today to gather for faith, sisterhood, and action for women, children and youth.” Both churches are within the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and located in Centerville, Ohio.**

**During the joint meeting, SI-Dayton club member Sheila Crane provided a Human Trafficking 101 presentation and SI-Dayton president Teresa Huntley shared an overview of the origin of Soroptimist International and highlights of the new Soroptimist International Dayton website.**

**Sheila Crane is chair of University of Dayton’s Abolition Ohio Speakers Bureau; in 2017, Sheila became a member of SI-Dayton a short time after presenting during the club’s 2017 Soroptimist International -Dayton Educational Awards Brunch. Sheila advocates for the more than 1,000 Ohio children that are caught in the evil web of human trafficking, many of these children are runaway/throw-away/give-away kids making them extremely vulnerable. Sheila is in the process of creating housing services for Ohio youth that are transitioning out of the Foster Care system.**



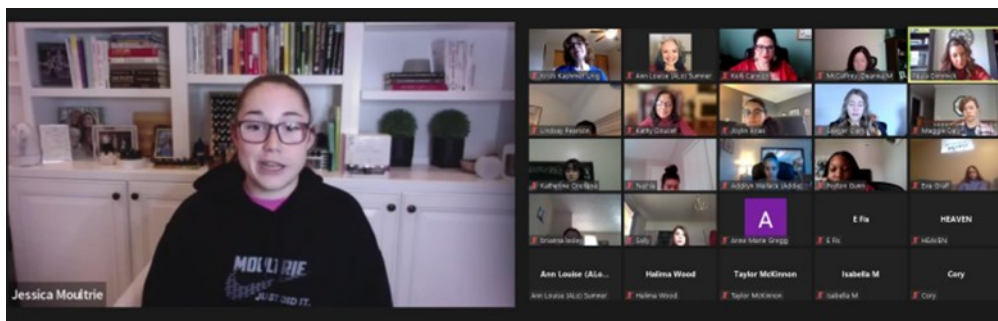
## SI Columbus and Franklin County Dream It, Be It Career Support for Girls Workshop

SI members of Columbus and Franklin County wanted to hold their DIBI Career workshop this year in person, but with so many unknowns at the time of planning, they felt it safer to hold it virtually. So, on February 26, 2022, via zoom, a small, but mighty group of 26 young girls joined them to explore their values and learn more about various careers. Leading up to the event, committee members worked tirelessly to make sure all their i's were dotted and their t's were crossed. They prepared the agenda for the day, put all handouts together in folders to be given to the girls or mailed out, coordinated with the five amazing career speakers, assembled gift cards to be given to all the girls (Chick Fil A) and some used for prizes (Amazon), and the list goes on and on of all the behind-the-scenes work done to make a successful event. On the day of the event, participants started off the workshop by hearing from a special guest, Olivia Moultrie, the youngest American Women's soccer player, who shared her inspirational story. She encouraged them if they can Dream It, they can Be It! Then they enthusiastically responded as facilitator and newest member, Kelli Cannon, led them through the curriculum. Next, they heard from five amazing career speakers, including a flight attendant, lawyer, dental assistant, financial planner, and a director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Throughout the two-and-a-half-hour program, there were random drawings and the participants had opportunities to ask questions. To entice the participants to fill out the survey at the end, they were told they would get a Starbucks gift card if they did. What better way to motivate teenagers than through FREE Starbucks! Some of the comments from the girls about what they learned included:

“I learned that I need to be resilient and not let negative comments affect me.”

“I learned to compare my values to the (likely) values of the job and find one I'll like and prefer over others.”

“I need to surround myself with a group of people who want to help me succeed!”



## The Vision



We believe in the power of dreaming big.

**That's why we've set a goal** through our **Dream Big Campaign** of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls.

**That's four times the number of women and girls we currently reach.**

It's a big, audacious goal. But no more audacious than the courage and resolve of the women and girls our Dream Programs will impact.

Each woman and girl we help has a story. Each has a dream.

They dream of achieving success on their own terms. They dream of raising healthy families and giving back to their communities. They dream of a day when violence and inequality will no longer stand in their way.

**You can make dreams come true for women and girls.**

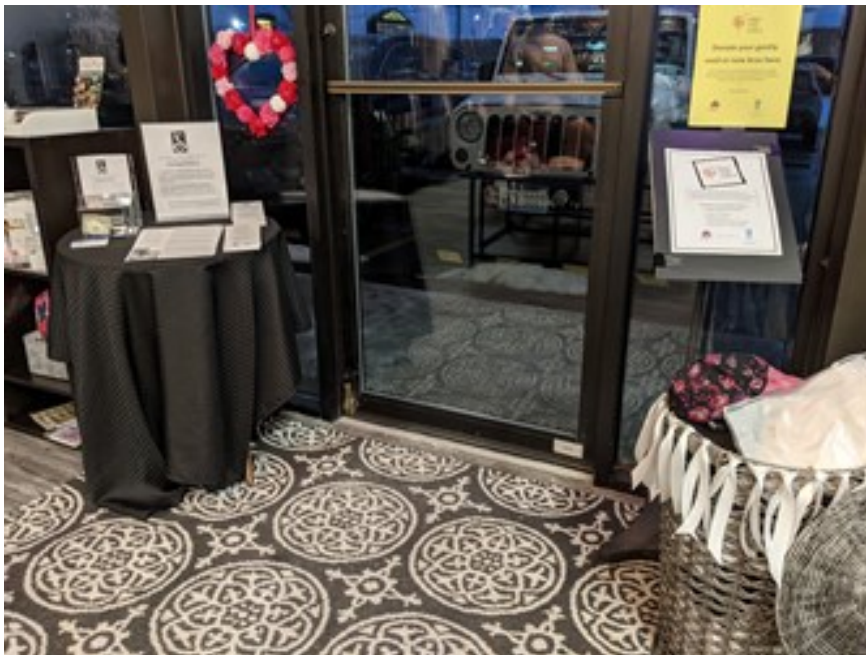
## SI of Bloomington-Normal

### Bra Collection Supports *Free the Girls* and Local Agencies

#### BloNo

SI Bloomington-Normal coordinated a community-wide bra collection for *Free the Girls* and local agencies. For the month of February Soroptimists partnered with OhmFit Activewear, Carle BroMenn (Medical Center) Resale Boutique, Carle Health & Fitness Center, and Element A Salon as collection points along with individual donations. Four hundred and eighty-five (485) bras were collected. These will be delivered to *Free the Girls* in Chesterton, IN and locally to the Center for Hope Ministries International, Catalyst Ministries (supporting survivors of human trafficking), and Neville House (a shelter for women survivors of domestic violence). In addition, financial donations at the collection sites were added to by Soroptimists to provide funding for bra fitting and new bra purchase for the Family Community and Resource Center. Of the bras collected there were 25 new support bras donated by *Handful*, a vendor for Ohmfit and 166 new bras with tags from Carle BroMenn Resale Boutique.

#### BloNo Collection Point at Ohmfit Activewear



## SI of Fond du Lac

We've had a busy few months! In January, we kicked off our second round of the Club 250 raffle, complete with Facebook-livestreamed drawings each Wednesday at 5:30 CST on our Facebook page (find us at Soroptimist International - Fond du Lac). Tune in any time and watch President Linda ramble about local and world events, the weather, cats, and, of course, why it's awesome to be a Soroptimist!



The end of January brought us back to our Chocolate Fantasy 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraiser, live, masked, and in person, including a visit from MWR Governor Christine Fowler Shearer (pictured with Sheila Zingler-Gilbert)! We had a very successful event, netting more than enough to support our awards and new programs as well as local charities that collaborate with us on our mission. We added a few new features, like a drive-through option and a virtual silent auction for those



who wanted to stay distanced while still supporting us. (The other "red" photo is one of our newer members, Nicole Kamphuis, with a long-time member Donna Christensen, running the drop raffle at the event.)

Through Chocolate Fantasy and the Festival of Trees event we did in December (see prior Vision), we recruited two new members whom we were able to install at our March member meeting. We are proud to welcome Katie Anhalt (left), and Stephanie Schulz (second from right), who are here photographed with Connie Gindt from the Growth and Development committee (and District 1 secretary) and club President Linda Uselmann (right).



March also brought us a long-awaited Women's History presentation, provided to the community in partnership with the Fond du Lac Public Library. We originally booked this presentation for March 2020, but we all know how THAT ended up. So, we finally were able to welcome Phil Passen and his hammered dulcimer to present Suffrage Songs along with some very well researched background on major events and personalities in the movement. About a dozen were able to attend in person, with several dozen watching the live-streamed event.

We are looking forward to this year's entries to our DreamCasters video contest, so that we can present another three high school girls with educational assistance. We have tweaked the contest to fit the Big Goal, and are very excited to be continuing this program.

Happy Spring, all!

## SI of Cleveland

Happy International Women's Month! The theme this year is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". This year's theme recognizes the importance that women and girls have in making an impact and addressing climate change. Soroptimist International's global mission continues to support this important initiative. As a club, we can make a positive impact as well by being good stewards of our resources. Here are some ways we can make changes:

- Save energy at home by using LED bulbs, lowering the heat, hanging clothes to dry instead of using the dryer and washing clothes in cold water
- Walk, bike, or use public transportation to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse emissions. Not only will you help the environment, but you can help improve your health and fitness too! For longer distances, consider carpooling or taking the bus. Eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and less meat and dairy, can significantly lower your environmental impact. Producing plant-based foods generally results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and requires less energy, land, and water.

The Midwest Region Spring Conference will be here before you know it! Save the date for April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Soroptimists from our region and celebrate our club member Christine Fowler Shearer being inducted as our Region Governor. There will be opportunities to network, socialize and of course- raffles! This event will be held in Fairlawn, and it would be impactful to have a strong Cleveland Chapter presence.

Upcoming club events can be found [here](#). I hope to see you all at our next membership meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> in person at 6pm in the lower level meeting room of OAESV, or online via Zoom. We will be planning for the next club leadership team as well as upcoming volunteer opportunities and the Live Your Dream celebration. I look forward to seeing you all soon and I wish you all a wonderful International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Soroptimist,  
Jessica







# HALF-A-HOG RAFFLE

**Purchase Tickets \$5.00 each at**

[Flowers for You, 22 East Gambier Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio](#)

[Online at Soroptimist of Mt. Vernon and Knox County Facebook Events](#)

**Two winners will receive over 50 lbs of pork  
(chops, ham, steaks, bacon, sausage, ribs & roasts)**

**Plenty to share with friends and family for Memorial Day!**

Drawing May 17, 5:30 pm at our Soroptimist Meeting (Need not be present to Win)  
Ready by May 24 for Pickup or Delivery anywhere within Ohio.



SOROPTIMIST®

**Investing in Dreams**

**Proceeds will benefit local women and girls through educational grants and programs  
leading to social and economic empowerment.**

## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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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 .

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### 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)

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