



The Vision



Ladies, it is that time of year when the transition of a new region board will be taking place for the next biennium, 2022/2024 and we are looking for **YOU!**

Being a Sorooptimist is more than just fundraising and attending meetings, it about making a difference. While we all make a difference within our clubs, some of you may be thinking in bigger terms! The Midwestern Region Board is looking for YOU, a member who wants to make a larger impact within our region and at the club level. All positions are open, other than Governor. If you would like to take on a board position, please fill out the attached form and your application will be considered. An election will be held if the present position holder plans on retaining the position for a second term. If you are considering the Governor’s position, then Governor Elect is for YOU!

Positions Open are as follows:

Region Treasurer

Region Secretary

Governor Elect

All 4 District Secretary Positions

All 4 District Director Positions

Inside
October 2021
Edition are:

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



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Midwestern Region Bylaws state:

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1 The elected officers shall be Governor, Governor-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Region Board of Directors. The District Directors and District Secretaries elected by each District shall also serve on the Region Board of Directors.

Section 4.2 To be eligible for the office of District Director, the member must have served as a District Secretary or Club President. If no one meeting these requirements is willing to serve, eligibility shall be expanded to include any regular member.

Section 4.3 To be eligible for the offices of Governor and Governor-Elect, the member must have served as a member of the Region Board and have been a Club President. If no one meeting these requirements is willing to serve, eligibility shall be expanded in the following order:

- 1) Those having served as Region Board Members
- 2) Those having served as Club Presidents
- 3) Any regular member

Section 4.4 Elected officers shall hold offices for 2 years, beginning July 1 in even-numbered years, or until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for no more than 2 consecutive terms in office.

Section 4.6 Duties

Region Treasurer: The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Region Board; deposit and disburse all funds belonging to the Region under the direction of policies developed by the Region Board; provide financial reports at Board meetings and Region Conference; prepare a budget annually to be approved by the Board of Directors and delegates at Conference.

Region Secretary: The Secretary shall attend meetings of the Region Board; record the minutes of the board meetings and conference; coordinate with the Governor the issuance of minutes within 45 days after the close of the meetings; coordinate with the Governor the issuance of a Call to Conference at least 45 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Governor Elect: Governor-Elect. The Governor-Elect shall prepare for assuming the office of Governor by becoming familiar with all aspects of the Soroptimist organization; work closely with and under the direction of the Governor, assisting to the fullest extent possible; assume leadership in the absence of the Governor, and shall preside at meetings. She is empowered to appoint committees that serve in the next biennium after January 1 of the year in which her term commences.

District Secretary: District Secretaries shall attend District meetings; record the minutes of the district meetings; coordinate with the District Director to issue the Call to District Meetings and preside at District meetings in the absence of the District Director, and within 30 days of the District meeting send copies of the minutes to all clubs in the District, the District Director and the Region Board.

District Director: The District Directors shall plan and preside at district meetings; coordinate with the District Secretary the issuance of a Call to District meetings and keep in close communication with all clubs in the District, reporting upon conditions or problems with the District to the Region Governor. District Directors shall attempt to visit each club within the District at least once during the biennium for the purpose of providing Soroptimist education, leadership development, and recruitment and retention advice.

Applications should be returned to your district nominating committee representative listed below no later than **December 20th**.

Nominating Region Chair: Veronica Stemen

vstemen@cdeducation.org

District I: Kris Armstrong

krisquin@msn.com

District II: Barb Flory

Bflory2307@gmail.com

District III: Karrie Blankenship

karrieb40@gmail.com

District IV: Diana Oswald

diana1991us@yahoo.com

SI of Greater Macomb

Greetings from Macomb County!

The ladies of SIGM enjoyed a wonderful summer capped off with our annual summer picnic at the home of member Jackie Wajer. We had lots of food, laughs and comradery. The picnic also served as our Secret Pal reveal. It was wonderful to be able to say Thank You! to our Secret Pal with a gift for them.

Our club was the recipient of a cash donation by a local credit union. Employees donate for denim days and then select a nonprofit to give the dollars to. A dear friend (non member) of our club put our name in the running. It was a wonderful surprise and we are very grateful for the additional monies to put towards our awards.

Fundraising continues to evolve and require new strategies. Thankfully we are in good hands with our fundraising committee. Their dedication to their community and our club ensures that we will be able to, again, provide women with additional financial resources to support their education goals. We are also exploring ways we can support the Big Goal outside of our education awards, perhaps with a more “hands on” project.

We can't wait to share our success in the next Vision.



SI of Columbus and Franklin County

Dream 250

Soroptimist International of Columbus & Franklin Co.

Tickets sales are now open
Cost: \$52.00

The first drawing is on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Here is the breakdown of winning money:

- **Weeks 1-48:** \$100 each week, and your ticket is put back into the pot for additional drawings/weeks
- **Week 49-50:** \$125 each week, and once your ticket is drawn, it is out for the remaining two draws
- **Week 51:** \$250 - once your ticket is drawn, it is out for the remaining draw
- **Week 52:** \$500 - Grand prize winner!

PAYMENT METHODS:

[Zelle](mailto:sicolumbusfranklin@soroptimist.net) (to sicolumbusfranklin@soroptimist.net). Or

VENMO @Veronica-Stemen

(Please mention Dream 250 ticket in the note section.)

Check or money order Payable to:

Soroptimist International of Columbus and Franklin County Please send checks to Veronica Stemen at: 5488 Hyde Park Drive, Hilliard, OH 43026.

Thank you for your support and best of luck! Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook, where weekly winners will be announced! <https://www.facebook.com/SICbus/>

SI of Grosse Pointe

100 YEARS of SOROPTIMIST and 65 YEARS of SIGP

These are milestones to celebrate! The first Soroptimist Club was founded 100 years ago in California. Soroptimist comes from the Latin soror-sister and optima-best, meaning “best for women.” Eighty dedicated women signed the first charter and chose to provide vocational guidance to girls as one of their first service projects. One hundred years later we are more than 72,000 women strong in 121 countries. All members work toward the same goal of empowering women and girls to dream big and to fulfill their dreams. Education is the key. Our Soroptimist mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe was founded in 1956 with 18 charter members. Sixty-five years later, with 62 members, we are a strong, active, diverse organization working together on many varied projects to educate and empower women and girls. Whether it is through our many educational awards, mentoring program, anti-human trafficking initiatives, providing tuition for high school girls in Ghana, the Dream It Be It program, or the important parenting classes and aid given to the women at Positive Images, we are proud of our accomplishments as Soroptimists.

We will be celebrating these two important anniversaries at our December holiday dinner. Save the date, Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Be prepared to enjoy the evening by looking back through our Soroptimist history.



SIGP Co-presidents Marya Rosenthal and Ellen Chapin clink glassed at the themed table aptly titled *A Late Summer Garden Party*

“A Late Summer Garden Party” is the theme of our Soroptimist table at The Daughters of Penelope annual fundraiser. This year, all tables of participants can be viewed online during the month of October at dopfestivaloftables.com and a “tip” can be given if you choose to donate to this event. Proceeds from this fundraiser are given to Ascension SE Michigan Breast Cancer Program to fund mammograms for uninsured women. SIGP is pleased to be a “Mingle” sponsor.

SI of Grosse Pointe

Candle Lighting Ceremony inspired by a desire for world peace

Soroptimist International planned a Candle Lighting Ceremony that all 3,000 Soroptimist Clubs (ours included!) could participate in between September 21, 2021 (the International Day of Peace) and October 1, 2021 (SI's 100th Anniversary Celebration).



SIGP members, led by Mary Ellen Burke, participated in the Candle Lighting Ceremony in person and via Zoom, September 8, 2021. Photo by SIGP Member Nancy Kelley, Shores Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

The event included the United Nations International Day of Peace, September 21. The 2021 theme is “Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.”

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Sends Wishes:

Soroptimist International to Establish Gender Equity

Soroptimist International of the Americas to Enable Women to Live their Dream

Soroptimist International of the Midwestern Region to Educate Women for Empowerment

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe to Eradicate Human Trafficking

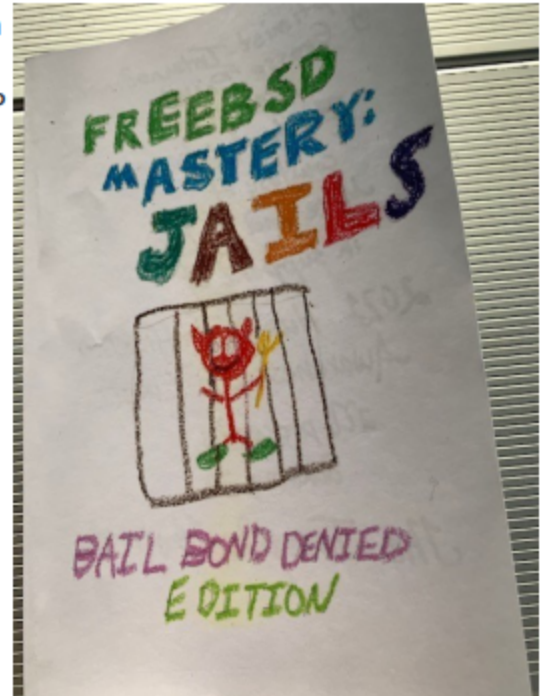
THE book that raised \$2,295 to help victims of human trafficking!

I would like to thank our members who were available to sign Mike Lucas's book he so generously auctioned to benefit our virtual 5K Walk/Run event. A special "thank you" goes to SIGP members Roseanne Horne, Nancy Solak and Ellen Chapin for making it possible and convenient for our members to sign his book.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of SIGP members signed the book (see cover at right), making it a unique auction item for a winning bid of \$1,200. The total received from this auction, including the winning bid, is \$2,295!

Mike and Liz Lucas, on behalf of the Human Trafficking Awareness Committee and SIGP, we thank you for your generosity and dedication to our Club, and its anti-human trafficking initiatives.

— *Karrie Blankenship, HT Co-Chair*



A Note from Liz Lucas

Thanks to everyone who signed my husband Mike's book that was put up for auction. You made this a truly unique item. It is a prize for the owner, and will help lift some of the weight off people who were only trying to survive. I hope the money raised by this auction and the 5K Walk/Run helps them not only survive, but also thrive. Thanks for taking Mike's offer and running with it. It is an awesome thing.

— *SIGP Member Liz Lucas*

Soroptimist International Grosse Pointe presents...

For the Love of Wine Raffle

**NEW THIS YEAR!
MORE CHANCES!**

Up to 5 chances



Drawing will be held on

February 9, 2022

**You do not need to be present to win.
Winners will be contacted for delivery options in time for
Valentine's Day!**

\$5 per ticket or booklet of 6 tickets for \$20

Cash, check, credit card or PayPal

Visit www.grossepointesoroptimist.org for information on how to purchase tickets

Contact Cara Crawford by email at crawfordcara83@gmail.com

***Ticket sales will support programs and educational awards for women and girls
leading to economic and social empowerment!***



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.

The Vision

Here's an Un-Fond Farewell to a Very Frustrating Year

Soroptimist International of Milwaukee is putting behind a lengthy period of pandemic-induced low activity and now looking forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment on a local, national and international stage.

Club members and guests got together in person in June with a luncheon meeting at The Brass Key restaurant, the first such meeting since March of 2020. The now-familiar Zoom setup was employed for those who could not attend, with President Aundrea Price and her husband, Tim Bailey, creating and guiding the connection.

For the club's newest member, Sarah Schroeder, this was her first face-to-face with any SI Milwaukee members since joining the club a year earlier.

Barbara Collignon hosted a summertime picnic at her home, giving one and all a second chance to get together on a perfect August day before the September start of regular meetings, at this time expected to all be in-person gatherings.

During the down year, all of the usual fundraising activities had to be cancelled as well as the annual dinner for awardees, though they all did receive the monetary awards and plaudits via Zoom.

The long-planned Dream It, Be It activity for students also was shelved and is expected to be brought back during the 2021-22 term in a revised format.

Also likely to return is the Lunafest presentation of short films by, for and about women to which the club had been introduced in 2019, shortly before the pandemic shutdown.

The Cathedral Center assistance program also was disabled and a variety of other small-scale projects had to be cancelled.

All are hoping that the frustrations of the past year will fade and a new energy will be born for 2021-22.

SI of Milwaukee

A Diamond That's Worth Its Weight in Gold

Well known among her friends as a great fan of baseball, Monica Philip submitted the following Inspirational thoughts.

“Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.”

--- Babe Ruth

There are many lessons to be learned from baseball. The first is that it isn't over until it's over. Until the last out you will still have a chance. That is the way we all need to live. You don't ever give up if you want to be a winner.

You also must show up for practice. You may be fortunate to have been born with a set of genes that give you a body with great potential, but if you don't show up for practice you are not going to make the team. Performance is what counts, not appearance. How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice.

The other lesson to remember is that you don't have to be a big leaguer to enjoy playing the game. You can learn from children about the enjoyment of playing. They do not worry about how they look or how good they are or wonder if people will laugh at them if they drop the ball and strike out. They just run, play, and have fun.

So enjoy playing and take a chance. Never give up until the game of life is over.

Life is a baseball game. Do you want to advance to the plate and take a swing or sit in the dugout and watch?

SI of Bloomington-Normal

SI 100th Anniversary Celebrated Jointly with Ecology Action Center's
50th Anniversary

Soroptimist International of Bloomington-Normal (SIBN) collaborated with the *Ecology Action Center* (EAC) in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Soroptimists and the 50th Anniversary of the Ecology Action Center with a purchase of 100 trees (@\$5/tree). *Soroptimist International's* first project 100 years ago was to help "Save the Redwoods" in California. The purchase of 100 trees is just the first of several projects for SIBN involving the donation of 100 items to community organizations in recognition of the SI 100th Anniversary. Prior to Soroptimist's current mission focusing on women and girls, the environment was one of the pillars of service.



The Ecology Action Center's *Tree Corps*, "a new initiative for Bloomington-Normal and McLean County aims to significantly increase tree-planting in the community, with a goal of at least 10,000 trees annually for the next ten years!" EAC's strategic *Bloomington-Normal Clean Air Plan* is to target local reduction of green-house gas emissions and air quality pollutants like ozone. The *Mohr Trees!* project is a part of EAC's partnership with the *Parklands Foundation* and the *McLean County Natural Resource Conservation Service* and *Living Lands and Waters* to plant 4200 small trees on the Mohr Tract in Lexington, Illinois.

As a "hands on" project, Soroptimists and invited friends were to have helped plant trees at the *Parklands Merwin Preserve* in April/May but was postponed due to inclement weather. This will be rescheduled. The EAC is a non-profit organization acting as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in Mclean County, IL.

SIBN's Nancy Armstrong serves on the *Ecology Action Center's* Board of Directors as Treasurer. *SIBN's* Larissa Armstrong is EAC's Assistant Director coordinating an energy efficiency program, Yard Smart, renewable energy programming, Sugar Creek Stewards workdays, and assisting with fundraising.

SI of Dayton

Soroptimist International - Dayton members and the Grand Reopening Celebration of The Dayton Women's Club

The Dayton Women's Club also known as the 'Grand Dame' of Dayton held their grand reopening event on Wednesday, August 25th. A downtown Dayton landmark for over 105 years, the DWC began as a clubhouse, it was a meeting place for the Dayton Federation of Women's Clubs after eight women's clubs came together.

Several SI-Dayton members were integrate in making the celebration of the reopening a success; SID members Robin Dodge (DWC Corresponding Secretary) made arriving guest feel welcomed as they entered the beautifully renovated facility; Margaret Kruckemeyer, President of DWC along with the club's President-Elect provided the 'Welcome Home & Special Presentation' during the Order of Events. Prior to the day of the event, SID member Susan Gruenberg extended invitations and promoted the reopening which certainly added to the success of the overall event - a wonderful celebration for women.



SI of Dayton



Our Soroptimist Dayton club is holding steady because of our desire and dedication to serve. Michelle Brad and Sheila Crane recommitted to additional two-year terms as Treasurer and Secretary respectively; Tish Wilson facilitated the heartfelt installation.



Our SID President Teresa Huntley on behalf of the Club provided a warm thank you to Michelle Brad for hosting our monthly Board and membership meetings at her Cold Beer & Cheeseburgers Beaver creek, Ohio location.

Call to District Meetings

District I & III Meeting

October 15 - 16, 2021

Hilton Garden Inn

501 Gateway Blvd
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9500
Rate: \$150.08

***Hotel Reservation deadline
September 15, 2021***

Please make sure to reference "Soroptimist" as the "block" for your room reservation.

Rooms may be paid for in one of two ways:

1. As a club (club check or club credit card)
2. Individually (credit card)

***Meeting Reservations due
September 30, 2021***

Things to Bring

1. Completed Awards and Committee Chair Form.
2. Club Basket Raffle – [Welcome Back!](#) theme.
3. Gently used bras for Free the Girls.
4. Bright colored or patterned flannel fabric for Days for Girls.
5. Hotel sized hygiene products.
6. Dollars for the Dollar Raffle.

District II & IV Meeting

October 22 - 23, 2021

Holiday Inn Canton

4520 Everhard Road NW
Canton, OH 44718
833-502-1236
Rate: \$125

***Hotel Reservation deadline
September 30, 2021***

Please make sure to reference "Soroptimist" as the "block" for your room reservation.

To avoid Ohio sales taxes on room rate:

Book rooms with club check or credit card
Bring Club 501(c)3 Form.
Bring completed attached **sales tax-exempt form**.

***Meeting Reservations due
September 30, 2021***

Things to Bring

1. Monetary donations or any size pajamas for women and children to donate to Domestic Violence Project Inc. Canton, Ohio.
2. Five-minute presentation on history highlights of your club to honor SI 100th Anniversary (could be speech, slide show, video, etc.)
3. Basket for raffle. (\$25 Value)

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

Governor *Darcy Merritt*

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*

SI Kenton-Hardin County

District II Secretary *Laura Ferguson*

SI Kenton-Hardin County

District III Director *Kellie Klingel*

SI Flat Rock Area

District III Secretary *Patricia Cavell*

SI Monroe County

District IV Director *Abby Bouton*

SI Columbus & Franklin County

District IV Secretary *Mary Lorenzo*

SI Canton Stark County

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

Emails Contacts

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

Secretary— **Sheila 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)

Like us on Facebook at [@simwrgov](https://www.facebook.com/simwrgov)

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



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GOVERNOR

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