

The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
September 2022



President's Message — Gearing up for fall

With fall on its way, our committees are working hard to bring new ideas for spirit wear, anti-human trafficking awareness, fundraising events, and our educational program Dream It Be It, to fulfill our mission.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT!

As a Soroptimist, you are a woman looking to help women and girls, and one way to do that is to volunteer at one of our events or projects. If you don't have a great deal of time due to your personal commitments, then we have some one-day events for you, even hourly.

If you are retired and have more time and would like to take on a longer-term project, then we have that too. Within this newsletter you will find events and projects you may be interested in, so please reach out to the chairwoman to see what you can do to help.

An email was sent to all members asking for your attendance at our September 14, business meeting to vote on the proposed budget and Ross Braun's nomination for the

Treasurer's position. Please make sure you are available to attend for the vote. The exact time the vote will be taken will be announced on the Zoom link email and on the agenda.

Fundraising is in full swing, so make sure to read your emails and newsletter to find out how you can help raise the funds we need to provide women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.



Above are (l-r) SIGP Director Aleksa Andjelkovic, SIGP President Karrie Blankenship, SIGP Secretary Mary Bryk, President Elect Bette Lepouttre, and Ghana Chair Carol Hofer. They were five of the cadre of volunteers staffing our club's booth at the AFTER 6 ON KERCHEVAL event held August 27. Their See more photos on page 9

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President's Message (continued from p. 1)

Technology has been a challenge at our business meetings, so be assured our IT Committee has been working to rectify the issue. Your patience and understanding are always appreciated.

Soon, I will be looking for a member to take on the role of Webmaster. Details of responsibilities will follow shortly after the September business meeting. If you think you would like to take on this role, please contact me at karrieb40@gmail.com

Membership Chair Diana Langlois and her committee are deciding about clothing with the Soroptimist logo on it for our membership to purchase. This is not a fundraiser. The items will be available for purchase at the October meeting and until the supply runs out. We hope you will buy these items to help bring awareness about Soroptimist. It always looks nice when we are together and are wearing our spirit wear.

Make sure to keep an eye out for your e-mail invitations to our events and meetings through SignUpGenius. Your response to the invitation will help determine the number of members who will be attending events and meetings.



Fall is the time when we are the busiest because we are starting to collect applications for our awards, along with continued work on fundraising to underwrite these awards. We encourage you to spread the word to family and friends about the Live Your Dream and Virginia Wagner Educational Awards by sending them to our website.

A QR code was created for easy access to our website. The code is at the left. Go ahead. Try it! Point your phone's camera at it and snap a picture of it. Our club's website address will appear—simply tap on our web address and explore!

Ladies, thank you all for your dedication and hard work for the women we have helped and for the women we will help in the future.

*Soroptimist Strong,
Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President*

IMPORTANT MEETING TO ATTEND!

Next SIGP Business Meeting: Wednesday, September 14

**Please attend, even for a short time, to approve the budget
and to elect our new treasurer!**

6:30 p.m. on Zoom or at Wave's Chill and Grill

24223 Jefferson Ave, SCS, MI 48080

SIGP's private room is available for meet and greet at 6:00 pm.,
and the meeting starts promptly at 6:30. All meetings are hybrid and recorded.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karrie Blankenship
President

Diana Langlois
Vice President

Bette Lepouttre
President Elect

Mary Bryk
Secretary

Nancy Solak
Assistant Secretary

Mary Ellen Burke
Assistant Treasurer

Directors
Roseanne Horne
Kerri Green
Carolyn Barth

The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin *soror*, meaning sister, and *optimus*, meaning best. Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as “best for women.”

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Third Time's a Charm - Wine Raffle Drawing: February 8, 2023



Hello Ladies of SIGP!
It's time for our major fundraiser,
FOR THE LOVE OF WINE raffle!

Third time's a charm and we need your help for a successful raffle.

This fundraiser directly supports the Live Your Dream Award, Virginia Wagner Educational Award and the Ruby Award, plus so many other initiatives!

We had a huge success last year with 28 bottles of wine and six prizes to raffle off! This year we truly need your support to equal or surpass last year's success.

More information coming ... but for now, **we're asking for donations — a bottle of wine (90 points or above) and/or monetary donation to buy wine.**

Drop off donations to:

Bette Lepouttre, 191 Ridgemont Rd, GPF 48236 (586) 557-3287

Ross Braun, 515 Middlesex, GPP 48230 (313) 904-0230

— Gratefully, Bette & Ross

You can raise funds for Soroptimist GP at the Metro Boat Show!

Thanks to those members who have already volunteered to work at the Metro Boat Show at the Lake St. Clair MetroPark (Metro Beach Park) [Metro Boat Show – Boat Michigan](#), September 15-18, 2022.

There is still time to volunteer! They need people to work the event as ticket sellers and other staffing positions. The pay is \$15 per hour. A check will be made directly to Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe for our hours worked. This is a fun way for **Soroptimists and their friends or families** to help raise money for our club.

An email will be sent to the club with the **SignUpGenius** calendar to sign up for specific days, hours, and jobs.

Questions: Contact Roseanne Horne at 313-706-1801

Anti-Human Trafficking Update

This year, the Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) Committee will focus on local opportunities to support other organizations, and small projects to inform our community about the plague of human trafficking.

“SOAP Up the Detroit Auto Show” occurred on August 17. This is Theresa Flores’s group, which our club has supported before. The aim was to prepare soaps for local hotels hosting people attending the 2022 Auto Show in Detroit. The small bars of wrapped soaps are labeled with a help line for anyone who feels stuck in a relationship or a trafficking situation.

See below for another opportunity to help women who have been trafficked.

Thank you for your attention, and please let me know if you have any questions.

— Liz Lucas, SIGP Anti-Human Trafficking Chair

Bra Drive

Ladies,

SIGP’s Anti-Human Trafficking Committee **NEEDS** your gently used/like new or new bras to donate to:



The mission of **Free the Girls** is to provide women and girls who have formerly been trafficked a way to earn a living for themselves and their families by selling your bras.

Think of this: By donating something that is sitting in the back of your drawer, you can help a woman lead a life in freedom!

We will collect the bras at the September and October SIGP business meetings.

They will be taken to the District Meeting in October.

Bras must be:

- ◆ New or gently used
- ◆ Great quality
- ◆ Any style or size
- ◆ Good condition

For more information: freethegirls.org

POSITIVE IMAGES BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

SIGP members Toni Adams, Lillian Frazier, Annie Mae Holt, Barb Skelly, Roseanne Horne, Dorothy Wasinger, Mary Ellen Burke, Carol Hofer, Aleksa Andjelkovic, Maureen Anthony and Diana Langlois toured 700 E. Grand Blvd., the intake house owned by Positive Images, on August 17, to assess what was needed to beautify the residence.

In summary:

- Seven second-floor bedrooms are freshly painted and have twin beds with new sheets, blankets and pillows. Windows have new blinds and sheers. There are new clocks for each room. The old nightstands and dressers that are no longer suitable need to be removed and replaced. Shelves need repairs and the second-floor hall needs to be painted.
- Needed: Decorative, bright-colored wall art on canvas, posters with plastic frame (no glass) to beautify each bedroom.
- The main floor has new blinds & sheers in the two bedrooms, the dining room, living room, and entrance.
- The sink and vanity on the first floor need to be replaced. The vanity in a second-floor bathroom needs to be replaced.
- Closets need hooks and a bar on which to hang clothes.
- Trash baskets are needed for each bedroom.



(L-R) SIGP members Dorothy Wasinger, Barb Skelly, Maureen Anthony, Diana Langlois, Mary Ellen Burke. (Top) Charlotte Hunter from Positive Images. Photo by Roseanne Horne.

It was discussed, that SIGP might provide a personal intake “goodie bag” to be donated quarterly. Tasks were assigned to members present with additional members Dawn Riddle, Anita Sandercott, Dorothea Williams, Karrie Blankenship and Bette Lepouttre also offering to assist.

ALWAYS NEEDED on an ongoing basis:

- ◆ Twin sheets
- ◆ Twin blankets for winter
- ◆ Towels: bath and hand towels and washcloths
- ◆ Items for intake “goodie bags”: lotions, shampoo, nail polish, underwear, socks with grippers on the bottom, etc. (same items that we collect for Mother’s Day)
- ◆ Plastic silverware
- ◆ Paper plates and bowls, napkins, paper towels

September WORKDAYS AT 700 E. Grand Boulevard:

WEDNESDAY, Sep 14, noon – 3:00 and SATURDAY, Sep 17, noon – 3:00

Come join the fun! Any questions contact Diana @ 313-690-1515

Mentoring for Success: Update

There was a group Zoom for a coffee chat on Saturday, August 20, at 10:30 a.m.

Mentees Tonesia Nesbitt and Danyelle Easley and mentors Bette Lepouttre, Maureen Anthony, new member Lori Schumann and Diana Langlois attended.

Tonesia is continuing her nursing program and clinicals at WCCCD. She shared the process of how she looks online for scholarships. In June she was the recipient of a national scholarship, the AMERICAN DREAM AWARD, that will pay her tuition for three years! She enjoyed four fabulous days in Washington, D.C., with the other nine recipients of this prestigious national award that ended with a formal dinner reception.

Danyelle is working on prerequisite classes at WCCCD, including microbiology so she can apply to the nursing program. Danyelle's daughter is a sophomore at MSU so both mom and daughter are moving forward in their educational goals!

Denise Sargent texted from Windsor, Ontario, that she has been accepted into the VIP-Community Service Learning program at the University of Windsor where she will volunteer in a local nonprofit for 40 hours this term.

Nealmetria Loper is working to put together back-to-school kits for moms. We are waiting to hear more about this initiative.

Delia Mustin is busy doing digital and media consulting!

Jeritha Brown has not been able to find housing. She and her children are staying with her mother in St. Clair Shores. She is very grateful for the air conditioners and fans donated to the house during the hot spell in July. Mark your calendar:

Next Mentoring for Success group coffee chat will be Saturday, October 8, at 10:30 a.m.

— Diana Langlois, Mentoring for Success Chair

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 7:00 pm on ZOOM

Save the Date – We will explore Soroptimist on the local, district, region, federation and international levels. You will be introduced to the four pillars of our club: Program, Membership, Public Awareness and Fundraising. And there will be time for your questions and your suggestions.

Seasoned members are welcome to join in to say HELLO to our newest members: **Dawn Riddle, Barbara Skelly, Annie Mae Holt, Carolyn Chandrasekar** and **Lori Schumann**. We are elated to have you join Soroptimist and we look forward to working with you in providing women and girls access to education and training to achieve economic empowerment!

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION will be at the October business meeting, October 12.



The [Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women®](#) is now open for applications! And this year's application season marks the 50th anniversary of this life-transforming program. Isn't that exciting?

Since 1972, Soroptimists have distributed more than \$39 million in education grants through the *Live Your Dream Awards* and helped over 39,000 women make a better life for themselves and their families. By empowering women to change their lives, the award has paved the way for new generations of independent, educated, and financially secure women and families, who in turn give back to their communities and countries.

August 1 through November 15 marks the annual award application period, in which eligible women may apply for the award by submitting their application to a club near them (or by applying through the online application portal if located in the U.S. or Canada).

Apply for LYD by clicking [here](#).

If you know of any women who might qualify for the Live Your Dream Award, please make copies of the form and distribute them.



We are pleased to announce that our club can present Soroptimist International of the America's signature educational program, [Dream It Be It](#) (DIBI) at [Mercy Education Project](#) (MEP), located at 1450 Howard Street in Detroit.

MEP's mission is, "Empowering Women and Girls through Education in Detroit." Sound familiar? A little different wording, but it's the same as our mission! Soroptimist "...provides women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment."

The program will run from Wednesday, October 12 – November 16, from 3:30-6:30 p.m., with 10-12 high school girls.

During the program two things will be emphasized: Writing and Career Exploration

Writing readiness will be emphasized since the girls need to provide a unique essay to colleges and universities via the "Common Application," which can be sent to almost any college. For U-M, this means it must be done before November 1. The essays will also be useful for girls who are not going to college but need to present a resume to those in charge of certification programs and employers.

We will be asking SIGP members to come speak about their current or past jobs followed by a Q&A. We will also need SIGP members for the de-stress week: chair massage, yoga, journaling, proper nutrition, and sleep, etc. We can carpool to MEP where there's an on-site parking lot.

MEANWHILE: Please save your cereal boxes when you are through with them. The EMPTY cereal boxes will be used by the girls to stylize their "dream boards." Please give them to Nan Solak or drop them off between her front doors at 458 Cloverly, GPFarms. Thanks!

*Best for Women,
— Nan Solak and Nancy Kelley, DIBI Co-Chairs*

P.S. Mercy Education Project Needs:

- Someone with a good decorating eye to suggest ways to jazz up the place that will inspire the girls and women who come into it.
- Tutors are needed on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. If interested, contact Programming Director Erin O'Mara at 313-963-5881.

After 6 on Kercheval — A glorious evening!

“A glorious evening, with a perfect temperature, no bugs, in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere,” is how SIGP Director Roseanne Horne described “After 6 on Kercheval,” a Grosse Pointe Park event. Not only was our club represented with a booth there, but also there were the Junior League of Detroit, the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women! The goals of setting up the booth were to increase awareness of our club and to distribute applications to those interested in our Live Your Dream and Virginia Wagner awards.

A BIG thank you to all the Soroptimist Grosse Pointe members who came to help! They are (in alphabetical order): Aleksa Andjekovic, Katherine Baetz, Karrie Blankenship, Mary Bryk, Mary Ellen Burke, Lillian Frazier, Carol Hofer, Annie Mae Holt, Roseanne Horne and Bette Lepouttre.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mary Bryk for bringing the tent, table and chairs!



(Above) SIGP member Katherine Baetz shows a woman visiting our booth a flyer about what SIGP does. The candy to her right was for the kids.



(Above right) SIGP members Carol Hofer, Annie Mae Holt, Bette Lepouttre and Mary Bryk.



(At right) SIGP members Mary Ellen Burke and Mary Bryk with our sign that sums up what Soroptimist Grosse Pointe does.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM GHANA!



Some of our students struggle with English which, after all, is probably their third or fourth language, and is complicated in terms of grammar, spelling and expression in another culture. What follows is a section from a note of gratitude (without corrections) for the support Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) provides from Gnani Hanifatu, who writes:

I am very grateful to write this letter to you my dearest Mother(s). I hope you are fine. I am very happy that you have paid my school fees which I was not expecting that someone in my life would do for me to make my dreams come true... I plan to continue my education after my...examinations...to be able to achieve my dream of been a pharmacist.

Well, study hard and follow your dream, dear Hanifatu! You can be a bright light for your family, your village and your community with your education and your desire to help. As Norman Vincent Peale said: "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it, you'll land among the stars." Shine on! — Carol Hofer

WHY WE SUPPORT GIRLS IN GHANA

Many of you (but not all new members) know that SIGP sponsors students at St. Anne Girls High School in Damongo, Ghana, West Africa, where SIGP member Carol Hofer did her Peace Corps stint. A priest from the village is coming to St. Ambrose Church (Jefferson and Alter Road area), September 3, and 4, 2022, to do mission appeals. A few SIGP members and friends are joining him for dinner on Saturday or lunch on Sunday.

This is not a SIGP-sponsored event, but if you would like to join us for one of these opportunities to learn more about Ghana and our girls, feel most welcome. Contact Carol at 586-774-3144 or carolhofer@aol.com.

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT RETURNABLES FOR EDUCATION!

We're in our third year of collecting bottles and cans FOR EDUCATION! During the first two years, our club garnered more than \$7,000 thanks to the dedication of members saving and dropping off their returnables and a cadre of members returning them. Please ask your friends and neighbors to give theirs to you. Then, deliver them on the front porch, back porch, by the garage, wherever to either:

Roseanne Horne—1247 Elford Court, GPWoods OR Nan Solak—458 Cloverly Road, GPFarms

SPIRIT WEAR!

The Membership Committee chose a top we hope will appeal to all! Keep an eye out for a Google email with an order form and details about sizes, price and the Soroptimist logo. — Diana Langlois





Soar Detroit brings people together to equip children so they can thrive.

- Schools** give us space and access to their students.
- Churches** recruit loving, committed volunteer mentors.
- Corporate Sponsors** underwrite the program.
- And Soar Detroit** provides an educator, customized lesson plans, and support for mentors.

"Thank you for your vision to expand the Soar literacy program in partnership with Detroit Public Schools Community District... This is the type of partnership that aligns with our efforts to rebuild the District."

*Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D,
Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools Community District*



Volunteer as a SOAR Detroit Tutor!

- A student at SOAR increases reading skills by one grade in just 11 weeks
- 300 tutors are needed for one-on-one student/mentor
- No experience necessary
- In person or by Zoom
- Several locations to choose from
- Online training is available now
- After school sessions at Grace Community Church 4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays starts October 17.
- One-hour sessions twice a week.
- 11-week commitment.
- September 15 at 6:30pm informational meeting with SOAR

Contact Mary Bryk or Diana Langlois for more information.

Happy September Birthday to...

Maureen Anthony, September 03

Judi Dara, September 09

Karen Ridgway, September 15

Carrie Petrocelli, September 16

Kathy DiCenzo, September 17

Geri Pleva, September 17



A Day at the Races



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

Kentucky Derby at Sugarbush Rd.

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to join us and experience the Kentucky Derby in all its glory. Make sure to wear your hat because there will be prizes for Best in Show and First Place! Mint juleps will be available and a betting form for that day's race. Money raised will benefit our mission to provide women and girls access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Date: May 6th, 2023 Time: TBD

Place: Karrie Blankenship / 47946 Sugarbush Rd. / Chesterfield Twp.

Midwestern Region Board

Governor – **Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland**
(fowlerartistic@gmail.com)
Governor Elect: **Audrey Jarv, SI Fond du Lac**
(audreyjarv@gmail.com)
Secretary - **Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac**
(sheilasifdl@gmail.com)
Treasurer - **Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County**
(alpers.1@osu.edu)

District III

District III Director - Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area
(ktingel@yahoo.com)
District III Secretary - Gail Hutra, SI Monroe
(gahutra1960@yahoo.com)

Soroptimist Websites

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region - simwr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
and to the ideals for which it stands:
The sincerity of friendship,
the joy of achievement,
the dignity of service,
the integrity of profession,
and the love of country.
I will put forth my greatest effort to
promote, uphold and defend these ideals,
for a larger fellowship in home, in society,
in business, for country and for God.



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.netYOUR NAME!
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this e-mail so the information
can be accessed by all public awareness chairs.

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Nancy Solak

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe.....Geri Pleva

INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp).....Geri Pleva

NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *THE POINTER*

is on the club's website and is emailed to each member

Deadline for photos and articles is the 28th of each month..... Nancy Solak



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE smile.amazon.com
(Look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)