



# The Vision



## Governor's Message

### Midwestern Region Governor Darcy Merritt

Greetings Midwestern Region,

I hope everyone is looking forward to our Virtual District meeting. I would like to Thank the board and our Cleveland club, especially Lee Ann Cochran, for all their help making sure our virtual meeting is awesome. The District meeting will kick off with pre-recorded sessions during the week and the meetings will be Friday night October 23 and Saturday October 24th. The time for Friday is 7:00 - 8:30 pm and the meeting will open 30 minutes early at 6:30. Saturday October 24th it begins at 10:00 - 11:30 with a 30-minute break and we will pick back up from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. We will open the meeting on Saturday 30 minutes early as well. You can sign in at 9:30 am. I'm sure you have missed your Soroptimist friends as much as I have, so you can stay on after the conclusion of our meeting to chat with your friends from 1 - 2 pm.

Hopefully by now you have heard about our Region fundraiser 20\$20 from your club President. It will be a friendly competition between districts to support our Live Your Dream Awards. We will make sure we post the flyer to the region's website. Good luck to all of you and remember the women and girls we help needs it now more than ever.

I look forward to seeing you all virtually for our District meeting and face to face in April for our spring conference in Fond du lac, Wisconsin. Enjoy your fall and be safe.

Best regards,

Darcy Merritt  
Governor- Midwestern Region



Inside  
October 2020  
Edition are:

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



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

## SI of Fond du Lac, WI

**Hello from Fondy, WI! C'mon in!**

**We are busy working on plans for the spring conference, and crossing our fingers that we can all be safely together. We met at our park to create the invitation...view here from atop our lighthouse.**



**We held installation for our officers at our September member meeting (an incredibly serious affair, as you can see by incoming President Linda's attire), and rolled out our CLUB 250 raffle. Get in on that for \$52 by contacting Linda at 920-322-0339. 51 chances to win \$100, with a finale of \$500 at year's end.**



**We also took time to celebrate the longevity of members, including Mary Heisler, who has been a Soroptimist for 60 years!!**

**We are in the beginning stages of a couple projects: a scholarship for teens to replace our sunsetted Violet Richardson award and Little Free Pantries to set out around town to help with hunger and distribute other items such as feminine hygiene items and small winter wear.**

**We're all working on staying safe, and getting through the things we need to while taking care of ourselves. If you're like us, your schedule might not be quite as full as pre-COVID. Here's a Soroptimist word search to help you enjoy your down time.**

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R R W W W N N G X Z G B D J N F T F Q L
C C U R M C X E D U C A T E G D B D F J
O B T G S C F L J J E G Q E G M P L R O
N W S A W E K I T M E M B E R S P H J J
F F V S S E F H S K J K V U M J O D Z M
E K B W O W R N B K U V D R Z R D W O G
R U M X C B X U I M U M I Q W I L W B Y
E P N S I S T E R H O O D M I E D V V W
N A H D A E C H O C O L A T E I U G X A
C E P A L O M P A B W U L Z R Z Y J B D
E W S E R V I C E L K L D C H V C P I S
E T J S J B L S I K U L S U S P C N W G
Z M Y Z G N W J F D Q Y J B Z R R U R L
O S P N Q K G L A F O V W J Y O F Q V V
O J U O C Q V X W O I N F H N G P G Z S
M G U P W H G T Q O F W A T M R E I F C
R C E H P E M G B D K Q C T V A C V J L
Z N E E O O R O L U E C R K E M X I F M
B R D D N X R O C R Q V C C Z S L N G O
F Z D R E A M T D R M Y P N G E B G D V
  
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**Cheers,  
Soroptimist International - Fond du Lac**

sisterhood  
empower  
educate  
dream

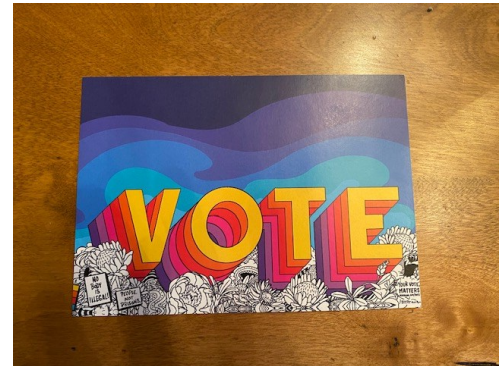
conference  
service  
donate  
zoom

chocolate  
members  
social  
food

programs  
support  
giving

Soroptimists of Grosse Pointe had a record turnout, in September, when we had an opportunity for a Q and A with Dr. Marc Rosenthal. As an emergency room physician and expert in international disaster relief, he has been a frontline doctor in the fight against COVID-19. Our membership still has many questions about this disease and Dr. Rosenthal did a great job of explaining current practices in an understandable way. Thanks to Liz Lucas and Maureen Anthony for suggesting this important topic.

In the spirit of collaboration, Grosse Pointe Soroptimists are giving the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe, a hand in a non-partisan “get out the vote” activity. The League, in partnership with the ACLU, is reaching out to people who don’t always participate in the voting process: single women, people of color, and young voters. Each Soroptimist involved in the project is given a list of 25 names and addresses, along with 25 postcards. Each card is addressed, and contains a short message written by the sender. It’s a gentle, positive nudge, always delivered in a non-partisan way. Members agree, it is a fun and easy, no cost project—even the stamps are supplied! So here is a shout out from the Grosse Pointe Soroptimists: Woman suffrage is 100 years old this year. Please thank those women who worked so hard for us and exercise this right by casting your vote.



The Historical Society of Grosse Pointe is selling “scarecrows” as a fund raiser and co-President, Ellen Chapin declared this would be a fun project to raise community awareness of our organization. Every woman’s group in the area is involved in honoring 100 years of woman suffrage so, of course, the scarecrow had to be a Suffragette. She is named in honor of the late Justice Ginsberg and proudly displayed on President Ellen’s front lawn. She’ll be visiting us through Halloween and can be seen at 1003 Harvard, Grosse Pointe Park.



## SI of CANTON/STARK COUNTY

### Virtual Celebration of Women a Success

When SI of Canton/Stark County had to cancel their annual “Celebration of Women” in March, the awards committee, headed by Alexandra Nicholis Coon, still wanted to find a way to honor their awardees. The members worked together and used the online platform Zoom to produce a “Virtual Celebration of Women” on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

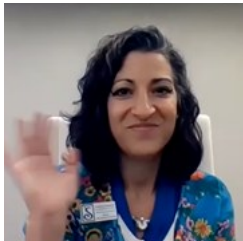
The celebration consisted of a combination of recorded and live presentations of our winners.

A total of twelve awards were given out totaling \$5575.00 to the recipients

In addition, the newly chartered Cleveland Club also participated in this event and honored their “Live Your Dream” winner and two runners-up.

Several distinguished guests from around the Midwest Region were in attendance including Governor, Darcy Merritt, Former Governor, Kris Armstrong, Governor-Elect Christine Shearer, District IV Director Abby Bouton and our very own District IV Secretary Mary Lorenzo

Alex Coon and Rachel Yost were the emcees for the evening, Courtney Johnson-Benson managed the online Q&A, and Jennifer Radosevic presented the club’s Live Your Dream Award live. In true Soroptimist fashion, attendees were able to participate in a trivia contest about Soroptimist facts and each winner was mailed an Amazon gift card.



If you or your club are thinking about hosting your own Virtual ceremony or event, please feel free to reach out to Alex ([alexpnicholis@gmail.com](mailto:alexpnicholis@gmail.com)), Rachel ([yost.rachel22@gmail.com](mailto:yost.rachel22@gmail.com)) or Courtney. We would be happy to share our secrets and “what not to do” lists.

Maybe we can list some emails here after we ask permission.

### WAITING ON RESPONSES

The club also rolled out its **Club 250** fundraiser for the upcoming year. For a donation of \$52 you will have an opportunity to win once a week for an entire year. Tickets can be purchased via Paypal ([SoroptimistCSC@gmail.com](mailto:SoroptimistCSC@gmail.com)), Venmo (@SoroptimistCSC), or CashApp (\$SoroptimistCanton) using the following description #Club250. Ticket sales are open until Dec. 1, 2020 and the first drawing will be on Dec. 8, 2020. Act fast as only 250 tickets will be sold. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support our programs for the 2020-2021 year. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Yost ([yost.rachel22@gmail.com](mailto:yost.rachel22@gmail.com)) or Jennifer Radosevic ([jenradosevic@gmail.com](mailto:jenradosevic@gmail.com))

## The Vision

## SI of Anderson, IN

**Willow Place Goals**

**Shelter** – To provide emergency shelter and case management to homeless women in Madison County, Indiana.

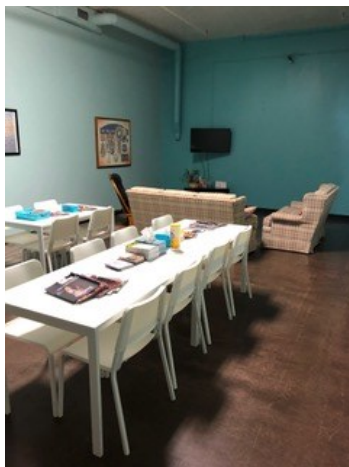
**Community** – Build more effective partnerships with community service providers to help women get back on their feet.

**Awareness** – Expand community awareness about homelessness to individuals, groups and professionals in Madison County

**Willow Place Mission**

Our mission is to provide short-term emergency shelter for women. We hope to empower them by providing resources to gain stability and self-sufficiency.

—Lynn High



## SI of Dayton, OH

**SI Dayton Update for September 2020**

As Ohio is emerging from COVID-19 pandemic quarantine sheltering, we are seeing the beginnings of the aftermath in businesses that may never reopen. For this reason, we have moved our club onsite and virtual meetings to a restaurant owned by our member, Michelle Brad. Michelle's restaurant *Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers* is closed on Mondays which allows us to have our Board and general membership meetings there with plenty of room for members to social distance and enjoy a prepared light dinner. The soup is wonderful.

Our missing, runaway, throw-away children are being found. The Missing Children's Poster Program (formerly CORY) has grown and is being adapted by several communities throughout Ohio and Indiana. In addition, most facilities displaying posters are also placing the Human Trafficking Sticker Program – STOP sticker in their women's restrooms. Most of our planned events are now canceled or being rescheduled. In the meantime, what we have learned through this pandemic is flexibility, adaptability, and how much we appreciate each other.

**We are Soroptimist Strong!**

## HISTORY OF VIRGINIA RICHARDSON

As we approach our Soroptimist 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all Soroptimists should know about the founder and first president, Violet Richardson Ward.

Taken from the book: Violet Richardson Ward  
Founder-President of Soroptimist By: Lillian Estelle Fisher 1983

### Ancestry

Lucie Shipgood is the youngest of 16 children and marries John Mead Richardson, the oldest of 10 children. Both the Shipgood family and the Richardson family reside on opposite sides of Essex in England. Lucie meets John Mead Richardson at a Salvation Army meeting. Mr. Richardson has to join the Salvation Army in order to marry Lucie Shipgood since a member could not marry outside the Salvation Army. Lucie was a captain and John a major.

### Early years

John Mead Richardson's parents move to Australia and want John and Lucie to move there with them. However, John and Lucie stay in England. John and Lucie had three (3) children: John Mead "Stanley" Richardson, born in 1883; Daisy Richardson, born 1885; and Violet Richardson, born August 27, 1888. The family leaves for America and settles in New York.

Due to Mr. Richardson's job selling insurance with Metropolitan Life Insurance, the family moved around a lot. Violet attended five (5) different high schools. Eventually, Violet came to Berkeley, California in 1905. She graduates from the University of California in 1912 and receives her master's degree in 1917.

Violet's sister, Daisy Richardson, marries Dr. Paul Marchant (an optometrist) and they have three (3) children: a daughter Daisy (called Sissy); a son Jack Marchant; and a son Paul Marchant.

In 1913, Violet started and organized the Physical Education Program in Berkeley schools. She also worked in schools for the blind and deaf, and also taught lifesaving swimming classes. In 1918, the United States was dealing with the flu epidemic and schools were closed down during this time.

Violet's brother, Stanley, was in Canada teaching when World War I broke out. He enlists with Canadian forces and went overseas for four (4) years. Stanley marries and has four (4) children.

In 1921, Violet's father, John Mead Richardson, dies.

### Violet and Stanley

In 1923, Violet meets Stanley Arthur Ward, who graduates from the University of California and receives his master's degree from Stanford. In June 1926, Violet and Stanley marry. On December 18, 1927, Violet and Stanley welcome their son, John. John graduates from College of the Pacific in Stockton, California. John marries Gloria and has four (4) children: daughter Sandra Ward West (who had one child, Daisy Elizabeth West); and three (3) sons: Art, Jim, and Tom.

# **HISTORY OF VIRGINIA RICHARDSON**

## **Beginning of Soroptimist**

**In 1921, Stuart Morrow, a professional organizer of men's clubs, started a women's service club and asked Violet Richardson Ward to start the club. Violet refused to sign a charter until Mr. Morrow assured Violet to make it an international club. Mr. Morrow agreed. The first Soroptimist club launched in Oakland, California with 85 women on October 3, 1921. The first club was named "The Alameda County Club." The first meeting was held October 10, 1921, with Violet Richardson Ward as the first president. By 1927, Stuart Morrow sells his rights of ownership to the Soroptimist organization for \$5,500.00. By October 30, 1928, the Alameda club becomes the "Oakland Club."**

## **Other clubs formed:**

**1924 London**

**1926 Manchester**

**1927 Liverpool**

**1927 Edinburg Scotland**

**1927 Glasgow**

**1928 Birmingham**

**1929 Aberdeen**

**In 1924, Paris, The Hague, and Amsterdam, joined with the British group to form the European Federation in 1928.**

**The American clubs formed the American Federation of Soroptimist clubs later named "Soroptimist Federation of the Americas" and later "Soroptimist International of the Americas Inc." July 1934, Paris, was the first international convention. By this time, the American Federation had 53 clubs; Great Britain had 32 clubs, and there were 25 clubs in 10 countries.**

**In 1952, Copenhagen, offices were established for Soroptimist International association. In 1956, Soroptimist International Convention held in New York City. Violet Richard Ward was introduced as the originator of Soroptimist.**

**In 1970, a bust of Violet Richardson Ward was made by Ono de Ruyter, famous sculptor in San Francisco. In 1971, it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soroptimist, and the American Federation entered a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, on January 1, 1971. April 1971, at the regional conference in San Francisco, that bust of Violet Richardson Ward was unveiled. Also in 1971, the international convention was held in Rome. A copy of the International Association Golden Jubilee History 1921-1971 was presented to Violet Richardson Ward. Violet had been a member of the Berkeley club for 51 years, from 1928 to 1979.**

**August 27, 1978 – Violet's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**

**August 2, 1979 – Violet passes away.**



## Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Paparazzi Jewelry Group Fundraiser

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3313625178693883>

Well with all the “covid challenges” this year... it’s interesting in how it helps all of us to grow and find new and different ways of doing things in order to still obtain the goals we have/had in the past... Desperation is sometimes the mother of invention... and it’s kind of neat when unexpected plans come together out of re-inventing ways of doing things especially when it sometimes helps tackle more than one task/or/challenge at a time.

Our SI of Suburban Chicago club is hoping we can make a wonderful impact on many levels this year with fundraising for our club's scholarship funds, along with, also donating “mystery jewelry gift bags” to various Human Trafficking Organizations giving much needed cheerful “pick-me-ups” to ladies that may need a little sparkle bling & uplift cheer in their lives.

Our club has partnered with Marian Hatcher’s Paparazzi Jewelry business in promoting sales of her jewelry and each sale our club receives 10% of the sale as donation to our club’s scholarship fundraising from now till December.

Each month Marian Hatcher has a different Human Trafficking Organization she donates that month’s purchased donation Paparazzi Jewelry Bags to go to. Last month; August donations were given to “Restoration 61”

<https://restoration61.org/> ...and now September’s Donated Mystery Jewelry Bags will go to Destiny House:

<https://hookersforjesus.net/destiny-house/who-we-are/>

All purchases of jewelry either for yourself <or> if you are purchasing a donated “mystery jewelry gift bag” for one of our human trafficking organization... **10% of all sales goes to SI of Suburban Chicago Scholarship Fundraising efforts.**

**All pieces of Paparazzi Jewelry are \$5.00/ea.** – making it super fun & affordable purchasing fashion jewelry to spice up one’s wardrobe, ...and who couldn’t use a little uplifting ‘bling’ right now? Or in purchasing sparkly stocking stuffers for gift giving with doing your Christmas buying early??

We also are **selling \$20, \$30, \$40 & \$50 “Mystery Jewelry Gift bags”** that will be donated to various Human Trafficking Organizations that Marian Hatcher is in touch with.

To join for viewing and purchasing our Paparazzi Jewelry – please go to the following link below to our group’s Facebook page and ask to join our group; **Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Paparazzi Jewelry Group ;**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3313625178693883>

To participate & purchase jewelry you like and see posted throughout our **Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Paparazzi Jewelry** Facebook posting page – just type “**sold**” in a reply under a jewelry item posting and Marian will be in contact with you regarding your desired sale.

**Every Saturday Night at 7:00PM** we also are hosting **Online “Live” Jewelry Parties** via Facebook where everyone can have fun socializing/chatting online together and purchasing fun fashion jewelry, while having a hoot of a time! Please come and join us in our fun journey of raising scholarship dollars and uplifting women’s spirits with some unexpected gift giving of bling to make this year a happier one for all while still being in the safety of our own homes!

**SI of Suburban Chicago club members, along with the women receiving scholarships & the donated mystery jewelry bags THANK YOU for your participation, thoughtfulness & generous support!**

Marie Denise Czech; President of Soroptimist of Suburban Chicago &  
Marie Delos Santos; Co-President of Soroptimist of Suburban Chicago




## 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		2021 SI of Suburban Chicago 250/25 Club	<b>Pull starts 1/1/21</b>
Name: _____		52 Weekly Drawings- \$25    1 Year End drawing - \$250	
Phone: _____		Proceeds will benefit local women and girls through educational grants and programs leading to social and economic empowerment.	
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, <a href="http://www.si-suburbanchicago.org">www.si-suburbanchicago.org</a>	
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.1<sup>st</sup> 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](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](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

A message from our former Governor Vivian Walczesky

**Saturday, September 5, 2020** Attended via ZOOM by Vivian Walczesky along with President Sharon Fisher, Bev Bucur, and members of SI Illiana and others around the Soroptimist globe.

**SI President Sharon Fisher joining with SI Illiana to discuss the SI President's Appeal and what's happening at SI.**

**SI President Sharon Fisher gave an update regarding SI and how those updates concern us all.**

**Upcoming SI convention : Dublin, Ireland – July 27-29, 2023**

**The SIA convention and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, October 1-3, 2020 – now cancelled**

**Keep informed:**

**Global Voice newsletter**

**Your voice at the UN**

**[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)**

**FaceBook**

**Twitter**

**Instagram**

**Soroptimist Lab – private and only for Soroptimists**

**Reports and publications**

**Position papers**

**We now have 21 representatives at the UN, and 7 centers**

**We have General Consultative Status at the UN; evidence based at grass roots level to prove and show that we know about women and girls.**

**President's Appeal is now being referred to by President Sharon Fisher as "international appeals." We have had: See Solar Cook Solar; Birthing in the Pacific; Women Water and Leadership; and now the Road to Equality.**

**Local clubs and SI have to close the gap and work to bring local clubs up to date on SI and the UN. Everything starts in our communities. How can we close this gap from local to SI. We can collaborate with other organizations as a start.**

**We have six (6) barriers regarding Gender Equality: 1) domestic violence; 2) human trafficking; 3) forced and child marriages; 4) FGM; 5) Older persons; 6) Migration-people on the move. Local clubs can hold forums and/or webinars on these topics.**

**What have local clubs done in this era of the coronavirus? We are looking for something to measure. Data is needed.**

**Regarding the topic of FGM (female genital mutilation), we have these women who have knowledge about the topic: Rugiatu Turay of Sierra Leone; Lisa Camara of Gambia; Gift Abu of Nigeria; Ayo Bella of Nigeria; Ifrah Ahmed of Somalia; and Sadia Hussein of Kenya. These six (6) women on campaigns to end FGM. #EndFGM**

Continued message from our former Governor Vivian Walczesky:

**Thursday, September 10, 2020      Attended via ZOOM by Vivian Walczesky and 200+ Soroptimist members around the globe.**

**Subject:      SI Voices – Trafficking Our Girls Webinar**

**Three (3) SPEAKERS: Jacqueline (Jackie) Shapiro; Theresa Flores/SOAP; and Evelien Holsken of Free a Girl.**

**Jacqueline (Jackie) Shapiro** – She is one of SI representatives to the United Nations in NY. She is also a representative to ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking). She has been at the UN for 25 years and she reminded us that the UN has been around for the past 75 years. CSW was created in 1946, and ten (10) years ago, UN Women emerged to advocate for women's rights. Trafficking is part of the UN Women program. The Palermo Protocol: to prevent, protect, and promote cooperation among the current 190 member states regarding trafficking. Numbers regarding trafficking: 40.3 million people are in modern day slavery around the globe; 4.8 million forced sexual work; \$150 Billion profit worldwide; and 66% of global profits are from sexual exploitation. Trafficking is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest enterprise in the world.

**Theresa Flores** – told her story to the audience. Many of us in the Midwestern Region have had Theresa as a guest speaker but the global audience had not heard the story. At the age of 40, Theresa realized that she was a survivor of human trafficking. She did not disclose her rape and all the "prostituted" times. Her trafficker said that Theresa "had no name" and her traffickers told her they would "kill her family" and blackmailed her with photos. She spoke about her SOAP project and how the global audience could participate.

**Evelien Holsken** – of Free a Girl. She is founder and director, and Nicole Franken is the campaign manager. Evelien is 50 years old, living in the Netherlands, and started "Free a Girl" in 2008. Free a Girl is an international organization that believes that every child should grow up in a safe environment. Child rights are still violated on a large scale. She said that violence against women and girls has intensified; that sexual exploitation of children will increase and that it continues online. Focus should be on children and law enforcement agencies. In 2017, the School for Justice was created, a program to give survivors the opportunity to study law and other human rights related studies, and to empower these survivors to change the system from within. Main donor to School for Justice are Soroptimists of the Netherlands. As campaign manager and social activist, Nicole Franken spoke of a video in which President Sharon Fisher has a part, as well as Amal Clooney and Nadia Murad. Nicole Franken will furnish the video to Sharon Fisher. Support for Free a Girl may be made to [FreeAGirl.org](http://FreeAGirl.org).

**Sue Riney** – said another webinar will be available on September 24, 2020, entitled "Protecting the Rights of Older Persons." The Soroptimist Lab: [MightyNetworks.com](http://MightyNetworks.com), and find "Teams" for a conversation with other Soroptimists.

## SI Milwaukee



### **GERALYN STIEMKE, Live Your Dream Winner**

In a note to SI Milwaukee Awards Chair Barbara Collignon, Geralyn Stiemke, Hartland, left no doubt about the value to her of the Live Your Dream Awards she received after years of stress and financial hardship:

“I can tell you that I am in such a better place mentally and emotionally since being blessed with winning the award. It alleviated a tremendous amount of stress for me. I even feel like a different person. I strongly believe that my situation will only continue to improve. I am six months into my surgical technician program and have one year left. I am working full time at a nursing home on the night shift. As hectic as my schedule is, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel. A huge reason for that is due to what you all do with Soroptimist. You actually change lives. Thank you so many times over for giving my children and me hope. God bless you.”

Geralyn has been working at two to three jobs to support herself and her daughter, Mikayla, 17, and son, Hunter, 14, after divorcing the husband who was imprisoned for abuse of the

children. She knew she had to get more education in order to provide a better life, and, after eight years away from school, she entered the surgical technician program at Milwaukee Career College.

“I’m chomping at the bit to graduate and get going,” she said. “I see only good things ahead.”

When she can find some free time, Geralyn enjoys being a role model by showing her children the pleasure to be found in the out-of-doors. She said she loves hiking and hunting and fishing. Closer to home she maintains a vegetable garden and supports three cats and her son’s African bull frog. “That thing is huge, and really ugly,” she said.

Geralyn also makes time to support friends who need a helping hand.



## SI Milwaukee, continued



### **LAUREN TATUM, Live Your Dream Runner-up**

She's a woman of many talents and many interests and she is runner-up for SI Milwaukee's Live Your Dream award, 2019-2020.

Lauren Tatum will be graduating in December from Alverno College with a major in integrated studies. "That lets me combine many of my interests, with a concentration on politics and a minor in arts, focusing on dance, theater and creative writing."

At the very top of her list is caring for her daughter, Felicity, who was born in April. "She doubled her weight in the first four months, so she's way ahead of the growth curve," Lauren said. All of Lauren's courses this semester are on-line, giving her at-home time with the baby and with Sean, her partner of 14 years.

Loren's goal is to become a midwife and she is currently waiting to be accepted into Alverno's direct entry program for a master's degree in nursing. This summer she became a certified yoga instructor in both standard and prenatal yoga. "I hope to include this in my midwifery practice," she said. She is also a certified lactation consultant and a Zumba instructor. "I love to dance and to move," she said.

She has been awarded for civic engagement on campus and participates in a nonpartisan organization which concentrates on getting out the vote. "I just talk to people about the importance of voting, I don't try to persuade them to vote for any particular candidate."



## SI Milwaukee, continued



### VIRGINIA WAGNER EDUCATIONAL AWARD

#### **AUGUSTA IKE, Virginia Wagner Award Winner**

Her family won the immigration lottery in Nigeria, in 2001, opening the way for them to find a better future in the United States.

“God led me here,” Augusta Ike said, “but it is my parents who inspired me. They have worked very hard to get out of poverty and to advance the lives of all of us.” Augusta has three brothers and a sister.

“Education is a gift that I never took for granted. I always wanted to know more, do more, and be more. Since my mother dropped everything to make sure her children have a life worth living, I will make sure that I never forget who I am, where I come from, and what got me here.”

Augusta said she felt the need to understand herself before she could be able to help others escape depression and trauma.

“I am not an African American but American African. I assimilated to American customs to move through spaces efficiently. I learned what makes an American an American and mimicked it to be seen as normal and not an outsider. For a long time I lost myself in trying to be a true American, but as time continued I realized that I am a Nigerian

American who can’t be broken because it is my destiny to help people,” Augusta wrote in applying for the Virginia Wagner Award.

This fall she moved to Madison to start her pursuit of a future in which she will be able to help the trauma healing process after earning certification in communications or gender women’s studies. She entered the University of Wisconsin already having earned credits in her psychology goal while a student at Rufus King High School in Milwaukee.

The switch from neuropsychology to an emphasis on abnormal psychology and trauma came this summer when she was able to lead a friend away from suicide. “Some keep their emotions bottled up and feel that showing them makes them look weak, but showing them is when you really are the strongest.” She said, “God gave life, then it is worth living.”

“I am joyful. I’m still searching for who I want to be. Perhaps it eventually will be teaching. I give all that worry to God. But I know the future is bright,” Augusta said.

In her spare time she loves to read, dance (she was in a competitive dance team in high school) and shop. She’s especially happy celebrating birthdays, socializing and networking.



## Soroptimist International of the Americas MIDWESTERN REGION

From October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> we will host a  
**VIRTUAL FUND DRIVE**  
to ensure all our District Award Winners have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

**A DONATION OF \$20 PER MEMBER WILL MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

**20\$20  
FUND  
DRIVE**

***The FIRST TEAM (district) to reach their goal will earn a  
ONE-TIME \$500 District Award for their Live Your Dream winner  
above and beyond the region awards!***

### LET'S HAVE A FRIENDLY COMPETITION!

District I – Team **ONE**derful  
124 members – goal \$2480.00

District II – Team **TWO**-good-to-be-true  
114 members – goal \$2280.00

District III – Team **THREE**-times-a-lady  
208 members – goal \$4160.00

District IV – Team **FOUR**midable  
166 members – goal \$3320.00

### YOUR 2020 SOROPTIMIST SAVINGS LIST

- ✓ Spring Conference registration
- ✓ Hotel
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ District Meeting registration
- ✓ Hotel
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Shopping

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

#### Live Your Dream Awards

\$5000 per region (1<sup>st</sup> place) – from SIA

\$3000 if region gives 30 LYD awards (2<sup>nd</sup> place) from SIA

\$3000 if region gives 61 LYD awards (3<sup>rd</sup> place) from SIMWR

\$3000 if region gives 91 LYD awards (4<sup>th</sup> place) from SIMWR

*Last year our region gave 53 LYD awards & will receive \$8000 from SIA in 2021.*

#### Virginia M. Wagner Award

(funded through the SIMWR Acorn Guild)

\$2500 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place      \$1000 – 3<sup>rd</sup>

\$1000 – 2<sup>nd</sup>      \$1000 – 4<sup>th</sup>

**We need to fund  
\$11,500 TOTAL**



### SIMWR 20\$20 FUND DRIVE PLEDGE FORM

for the SIMWR 2020/2021 Live Your Dream and Virginia M. Wagner Award.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am pledging ☐\$20 ☐\$40 ☐\$60 ☐Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To be paid by check on or before \_\_\_\_\_

OR for ☐PayPal ☐VENMO send payments to: [mwrtrcas@gmail.com](mailto:mwrtrcas@gmail.com)

**For the fastest tally, send the completed form to SIMWR Treasurer Audrey Jarvey at [audreyjarv@gmail.com](mailto:audreyjarv@gmail.com)**

Send your payment (and form – slower tallying) to: Audrey Jarvey  
N74W13737 Appleton Ave Unit 116, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051



## 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

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

Soroptimist International of the Americas - ([siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org))

### Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - ([simwr.org](http://simwr.org))

Soroptimist International of the Americas ([soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org))

Soroptimist International ([soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org))

Soroptimist Summary ([soroptimistsummary.org](http://soroptimistsummary.org))

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

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



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