



Inside

December 2020

Message from Midwestern Region Membership Chair, Roseanne Horne

It was great to see so many Soroptimist faces on the virtual District meetings in October. If you couldn't be there "in person", all the presentations are available to view at your convenience on the Midwestern Region website.

Below are the updates I presented on the membership numbers for the Midwestern Region:

<u>Midwestern Region Membership Totals:</u> Number of Clubs: 30 Number of Members: 673 Clubs with under 12 members: 4 Newly Chartered: 1 (Hines Park, Michigan) Clubs Disbanded: 2 (Greater Detroit, Michigan) and (Tipp City/Miami Valley, Ohio)

Upon viewing these numbers, it is clear that our membership is declining. The region has lost 36 members since last year. What can we do about this? Invite family and friends to your next club meeting or activity (even if it is on Zoom!) Ask if they want to join! Keep current members engaged! Check in on them, send notes or emails, make phone calls. Retain our members by continuing to carry out the Soroptimist mission of helping women and girls.

These are different times and many things have changed, however now more than ever, women and girls need our help to continue their education, find a job or overcome a difficult situation. Please continue to support your club, our region and SIA in accomplishing our Mission.

Learn more about the BIG Picture – Listen to Soroptimist International Webinars

Once a month SI President Sharon Fisher leads a webinar covering the 5 issues on the "Road to Equality" or updates about club projects throughout the Federations.

The webinars are one hour and usually consist of an International overview, an individual example and an "Expert" working directly in the chosen field. Some of the webinar topics have covered, domestic violence, trafficking and FGM (*now they are replacing the word mutilation with cutting*),etc.

You can listen to these past webinars by visiting Soroptimistinternational.org and search for Webinars.

We have had very high participation from our Midwestern Region members. If you would like to register for the monthly webinars contact: <u>sharon.fisher@soroptimistinternational.org</u> Edition are: Articles from your

Midwestern

Region and

una

Board Members,

Chairs

& MUCH MORE!



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

SI of Bloomington-Normal

SI Bloomington-Normal Delivers Diversity Books to School District

In October 2020, Soroptimist International of Bloomington Normal completed delivery of books to District 87 Pre-Kindergarten-Elementary School Libraries celebrating diversity and modeling kindness.

Soroptimsts' Karen Fleming and Diana Lewis learned of a need for books for PK-elementary students reflecting the racial diversity in the classroom.

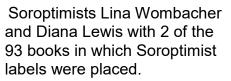
Teaming up with a local retired school librarian, the Bloomington-Normal Club raised \$1000 to purchase 93 books.

Soroptimist Lina Wombacher designed a Soroptimist label that was placed in the donated books. One of the teachers noted "These books support the state Social Emotional Learning standards and can also be used for literature discussions of text-to-text, text-to-self and text -to-world connections."

Letters were received from principals, library media specialists, and teachers thanking Soroptimists for this acquisition.

At the conclusion of one letter, was a quote by Maya Angelou . . .

"In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength."





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The Vision

Ρ	age 3	

SI of MOUNT VERNON	and KNOX COUNTY
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Food for the Hungry

A two-mile in line Arizona. A four-hour wait in Ohio.

Millions of Americans are seeking help to avoid going hungry this Holiday Season.

A Feeding America analysis estimates 15 million more people will live in food insecure homes in the U.S. this year compared to prepandemic levels. In Ohio, the Army National Guard helped with food distribution in the Akron-Canton region according to the USA Today. During a drive thru distribution before Thanksgiving, the line of cars stretched for a mile.

We will be participating in the Food for the Hungry of Knox County Fundraiser by joining in a friendly competition with other local organizations:

Exchange Club of Mount Vernon and Knox County

Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon

Lions Club of Mount Vernon

Psi lota Xi

Rotary Club of Mount Vernon

Cash donations are encouraged because each \$1 donated is equivalent to \$10 of buying power through the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Let's all help meet their goal of \$240,000!

SI of Dayton

SI of Dayton, OH

Like many of you, I long anticipated the year 2020; who would have known that an invisible coronavirus would change our world and how we interact with each other... for now. The social and economic disruptions along with so many experiencing psychological distress due to this pandemic crisis have positioned many of us for an uncertain future. Our Soroptimist of Dayton club has navigated ways of social distance gathering (with mask) and virtual communication and most important we're continuing the work of combating human trafficking and finding our missing children. Maintaining this work has made our SI of Dayton club bond even stronger.

As we prepare for Advent and a new year - a new beginning, let us be mindful of those who are struggling, alone; our neighbors and our Soroptimist sisters. Reach out to the elderly and those who are isolated. Text, email, write letters, make phone calls to people you haven't heard from in awhile. Establish routines and schedule your day. Clean your house. Watch classic movies with your significant other. Hug your kids. Before getting out of bed be thankful for a new day. Before getting into bed, be thankful for the end of the day.

Be thankful for the promise of 'hope and a future' ~

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

King James Version (KJV)



We are Soroptimist Strong!

SI of Chicago

SI Chicago is holding their 2nd <u>"Virtual Auction"</u> Dec.11-13 (Sunday)

There is still time to find gifts and receive them before the holidays. You can also view the items before the auction begins. Use this link.

https://

www.charityauctionstoday.com/ auctions/soroptimist-chicagodecember-new-vintage-handmade-17429

Thanks, Terry Phillips SI Chicago

Sheila Crane, SID

STRONGER TOGETHER ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY

Submitted by former Governor Vivian Walczesky, at a ZOOM meeting on November 19, 2020. 200 Participants from around the globe. SUBJECT: ROAD TO EQUALITY

Topic: Hear from the federations and their responses to the Road to Equality in our local communities.

Date: November 19, 2020 Over 200 participants on this webinar Submitted by: Vivian Walczesky

SI President Sharon Fisher began this webinar by introducing Bette Levy, our main UN Representative in New York, who stated that she (Bette) relies on our local projects to provide her with data and information that is included in the global processes. Bette spoke about the Beijing Declaration, globally agreed to in 1995, which is the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. Bette also said that no country has yet fully met the objectives of the platform for action. As a defining framework for change, the platform for action remains. There are 12 critical areas of concern:

- *Women and poverty
- *Education & training of women
- *Women and health
- *Violence against women
- *Women and armed conflict
- *Women and economy
- *Women in power and decision making
- *Institutional mechanisms
- *Human rights of women
- *Women and the media
- *Women and the environment
- *The girl child.

Speaker and current president of SIA, Penny Babb, spoke about survivors, and the impact our Live Your Dream awards provide. Penny spoke about the sustainable goals indicated by the UN as follows: #1, no poverty; #4 Quality of education; #5 Gender Equality; #8, Decent work and economic growth; and #10 Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Speaker Anusha Santhirasthipam of SISWP, spoke on the program entitled "bush to belly" showing young children and their mothers about secret recipes with food in the indigenous country of Australia and how the mothers then convince the elders in the community about the goals of no poverty, good health and well being, quality education, and gender equality.

Speaker Rita Nogueira Ramos, of SIE, spoke on projects regarding trafficking, violence against women, education of young people forced into prostitution, management of shelters and training those women leaving the shelters.

Speaker Nisha Ghosh, of SIGBI, spoke on violence against women, and reminded us that in a majority of cases, it is the women who is abused and the other gender the abuser.

President Sharon Fisher also stated that we will hear from the new African Federation during an upcoming webinar and we should all stay tuned.

COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

United Nations Unite to End Violence Against Women Held November 25, 2020 Submitted by: Vivian Walczesky

The event opened with a song entitled "One Woman." One take away from this webinar is that the pandemic has dramatically increased domestic violence against women and girls, prevented women and girls from calling hotlines and shelters, and exacerbated child marriages and FGM, and in general, caused an increase in global violence against women and girls.

The hosts of this event were Zahra Al Hilaly and Stuart Moir.

The dates to remember are November 25, 2020, Elimination of Violence Against Women, to December 10, 2020, Human Rights Day.

Orange is the new color with meaning of a brighter future and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Activists from around the world spoke about their grass roots efforts to combat violence against women in countries like Rwanda, Afghanistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Argentina, Nigeria, Ukraine, Albania, Tunisia, Nepal, Kenya, Georgia, Morocco, Nigeria, Trinidad & Tobago, Malawi, and Australia.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres opened the session and spoke on the global emergency of violence against women, gender based, and increasing since the pandemic. Efforts by all grass roots organizations, first responders, and programs need to be collecting and analyzing data on violence against women. Violence is a blight against human rights.

Speaker Natalia Kanem of the UN Population Fund stressed "enough" to domestic violence, to rape, to trafficking, to slavery, to FGM, and to child marriages. Domestic violence occurs in all societies. In a three (3) month lockdown, Kenyan girls saw an increase in pregnancies, and also increased domestic violence staying at home and not attending school.

An ad campaign in New York showed posters all blocked out but had this message: This is a photo of a man beating his wife. However, it is illegal to show it. But it is not illegal to do it.

Two UN Goodwill Ambassadors spoke: film and tv star Nicole Kidman who told the audience that in many places in the world, home is not a safe place because of violence against women. 1 in 3 women face gender based violence. Provide services, learn about the issues. Volunteer your time and donate if you can. And Cindy Bishop, who spoke about an event in Thailand where women were told to dress appropriately for a special event, but men were not told to act/behave appropriately.

COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

David R. Malpass, president of the World Bank Group, stressed that violence against women is unacceptable.

The World Bank starting on January 1, 2021, will begin a new program disqualifying contractors and subcontractors from borrowing funds from the World Bank for a 2 year period upon checks which indicate violence against women.

The World Bank is pleased to work with the United Nations.

Survivors included Amenda Nguyen, founder of "Rise" who succeeded in getting legislation passed during the Obama administration. Amenda said that if a survivor if not at the table to discuss solutions, then she is on the menu. Also, another survivor, Nadia Murad, a Yazidi women, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke on how women from her village were taken, displaced, raped, and not provided with basic services.

Observations from this webinar.

- Do we know how many women are in our local shelters due to domestic violence?
- How has the pandemic affected domestic violence survivors?
- Does anyone know the number of offenders who are charged with domestic violence?
- Does your local paper or other social media have a reporter who keeps track of the offenders?
- Is there a program for offenders and do they attend these programs?
- What type or kind of hospitalization did a survivor require?
- Did the survivor press charges?
- Did the survivor attend counseling?
- Does the survivor in some countries know their legal remedies?
- Is the victim provided with housing information and other health & human services information?
- Is there a follow up with the survivor?
- Does your county have a partnership with law enforcement and hospitals for domestic violence survivors?
- Does your area have a first responders program?

The Vision

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 1/1/21				
Name:	52 Weekly Drawings- \$25 1 Year End drawing - \$250 Proceeds will benefit local women and girls through educational grants and				
Email:	programs leading to social and economic empowerment.				
No. 0001	Winners will be notified by phone or email. Checks will be mailed. Winners are put back in the pot. Winners will be posted in our web site, www.si-suburbanchicago.org				
	No. 0001				

Please help support Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago Scholarships with purchasing our raffle tickets now for winning our 250/25 raffle drawings starting Jan.1st 2021... purchase ticket cost is \$25.00 for 1 ticket You can purchase tickets via our online website link below (or by contacting our club); https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250

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

Winners will also be posted on our website, see our winners for this year's 2020 drawings : https://www.si-suburbanchicago.org/club_250/2020

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

<u>Live Your Dream Award</u> 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.

<u>Virginia Wagner Award</u> 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.

<u>GED Grant</u> 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 <u>Thank You</u> 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

SI of Greater Macomb

Fundraising

Greetings from SI Greater Macomb!

We were blessed to have our November meeting in the garage of our Vice President Amanda Melkert. Doors were open, faces masked and chairs apart. The meeting was productive and it sure did feel good to be together.

On Friday we are going to Zoom our annual Holiday Gathering. Co-Secretary Susan Rhein generously gave us each two ornaments we can make and some fancy hot chocolate for sipping while we zoom zoom away.

Our Make Money At Home With Greater Macomb raffle fundraiser still has some tickets left. If you'd like to purchase one please reach out to Amanda at: <u>Amandasigm@gmail.com</u>

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER MACOMB					
52 WEEK RAFFLE					
MAKE MONEY AT HOME WITH SI GREATER MACOMB					
\$75 Weekly Winners BUY YOUR TICKETS \$250 & \$500 Bonus Drawings					
Help us to invest in dreams for women and girls in Macomb County					
Tickets are \$52.00 each					
TICKETS DRAWN EVERY THURSDAY IN 2021					
BONUS DRAW DATES \$250 - 1/7/21, 3/4/21, 7/1/21, 11/18/21, 12/9/21 \$500 - 12/30/21					
See si-greatermacomb.org for Official Rules.					
Federal ID#38-6091133 Raffle License # X03704					

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 IVSecretary Mary Lorenzo** SI Canton Stark County

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



Editor for The Vision Ross Braun SI Grosse Pointe braunross@aol.com 313-909-0230

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2020 / 2022 Board



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

Connections for the 2020–2022 Midwestern Board

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

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

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

Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahg@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

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30 Midwestern Region Clubs by State and District

(8) Clubs in Michigan

- Downriver Area
- Flat Rock Area
- Greater Macomb
- Grosse Pointe
- 5. Hines Park
- Monroe County
- Oakland County
- Trenton Area

(13) Clubs in Ohio

- 1. Canton & Stark County
- Cleveland
- 3. Columbus & Franklin County
- Dayton
- Fremont
- Hancock County Area
- 7. Kenton/Hardin County
- 8. Lucas County
- Middletown
- 10. Mount Vernon & Knox County
- 11. N.E. Suburban Franklin County
- 12. Urbana
- Zanesville

(6) District I

- 1. Bloomington-Normal
- 2. Chicago
- 3. Fond du Lac
- Illiana
- Milwaukee
- 6. Suburban Chicago

(8) District II

- 1. Anderson
- 2. Dayton
- Hancock County
- Indianapolis Metro
- 5. Kenton/Hardin County
- Middletown
- 7. Tri-State
- Urbana

- 1. Fond du Lac
- 2. Milwaukee

(4) Clubs in Illinois

(2) Clubs in Wisconsin

- 1. Bloomington Normal
- 2. Chicago
- Illiana
- 4. Suburban Chicago

(3) Clubs in Indiana

- 1. Anderson
- 2. Indianapolis Metro
- Tri-State

(9) District III

- Downriver Area
- 2. Flat Rock Area
- Greater Macomb
- 4. Grosse Pointe
- 5. Hines Park
- Lucas County
- Monroe County
- 8. Oakland County
- Trenton Area

(7) District IV

- 1. Canton / Stark County
- Cleveland
- 3. Columbus & Franklin County
- 4. Fremont
- 5. Mt. Vernon / Knox County
- 6. New Suburban Franklin County
- Zanesville

as of 2020

Federation	Federation		Federation	Federation	Federation
SI of The Americas	SI of Europe		SI of Great Britain & Ireland	SI of South West Pacific	SI of Africa
Regions/Governors Districts	Unions		Regions/National	Regions	Regions
SIA Clubs	SIE Clubs		SIGBI Clubs	SISWP Clubs	SISAF Clubs
Argentina	Albania	Latvia	Anguilla	Australia	Benin
Bolivia	Austria	Liechtenstein	Antigua	Fiji	Burkina Faso
Brazil	Belgium	Lithuania	Bangladesh	People's Republic of China	Cameroon
Canada	Bosnia	Luxemborugh	Barbados	Indonesia	Egypt
Chile	Herzegovina	Martinique	Bambia	Malaysia	Ethiopia
Columbia	Bulgaria	Moldova	Grenada	Mongolia	Gambia
Ecuador	Burkina Faso	Monaco	Guernsey	New Zealand	Ghana
Guam	Czechoslovakia	Neterhlands	India	Papua New Guinea	Guinea
Japan	Crostia	Netherlands Antilies	Isle of Man	Samoa	Ivory Coast
Korea	Cyprus	New Caledonia	Jamaica	Singapore	Kenya
Mexico	Czech Republic	Norway	Malta	Solomon Islands	Madagascar
Panama	Demoratic Rep. of Congo	Poland	Pakistan	Thailand	Malawi
Paragua	Denmark	Portugal	Republic of Irland		Mali
Peru	Estonia	UNMIK-Kosvo Reunion	Sri Lanka		Mauritius
Phillippines	Finland	Romania	St. Vincent & the Grenadines		Morocco
Puerto Rico	France	Russia	Trinidad & Tobago		Nigeria
Taiwan	French Guiana	St. Marino	Turks & Caicos Island		Rwanda
US of America	Georgia	Slovakia	Uganda		Senegal
Venezuela	Germany	Spain	UK of Great Britain		Seychelles
	Greece	Surinam	& Northern Island		Sierra Leone
	Guadeluope	Sweden			South Africa
	Haiti	Switzerland			Tanzania
	Hungary	Tahiti			Togo
	Iceland	Turkey			Tunisia
	Isreal	Ukraine			Uganda
	Italy				Zimbabwe

Soroptimist International Org Chart