

The Vision

April 2018 Edition



A message from Governor Vivian Walczesky



As I write this message to all of you, Easter is just about here. I am getting ready to color Easter eggs--yes I still do that--and a big Sunday dinner for my family. Wishing you and yours a wonderful Easter celebration.

Our spring conference is right around the corner in Lisle, Illinois. The entire Midwestern Region Board is getting together all the things necessary before all of you show up. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again and meeting new members for the first time. We have a full slate of officers for you and it will soon be time for me to pass on my Governor's pin to Governor Elect Kris Armstrong. When anyone says "Time flies," it really has flown by for me as your Governor. We will take a look at the health of our region and I will make some final comments as your Governor. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Governor for 2016-2018.

Having attended the Conference on the Status of Women in New York from March 9 through March 15, 2018, I come away with the awe inspiring feel of New York City. It is a city that like Vegas never sleeps. The United Nations promotes comradery and friendships. We got up with the birds in order to appear for morning briefings. As always, my roommate for this conference was Lata Shastri, president of the Wyandotte Southgate Taylor club. It is always a joy to share a room with Lata and we somehow manage to get a room with a view, this time on the 39th floor of the Millennium Hilton. We could reach out and touch the Chrysler Building, and at night, it is a magnificent view. But we are there as a delegation to support

Soroptimist International. All four federations were represented. As SI Director of Advocacy, our own Beverly Bucur informed us of the happenings and events surrounding the issues of water. The sessions, parallel events, and meetings are without question the best anywhere. You learn something from every session or parallel event. Education is the key. The CSW is held in March each year. If anyone is ever interested in attending the CSW, please contact me since notification goes out generally in October or November each year.

By now, we have all had our LYD and Wagner award winners named. We are ready to distribute funds to these winners. This is the exciting part for all of us. Women helping women to be their best. Each time you fundraise, each time you hold a raffle, each time you do a 50/50, remember that these are the funds that help any woman continue with her education. As we have heard so many times, if you want to get a woman out of poverty, educate her. And let's continue to do that by giving more of our hard earned fundraising monies to our LYD awards and giving more awards. Take a long hard look at your budgets and keep distributing those funds. Those funds you raise, sitting in an account accumulating cob webs does not help any woman.

My sincerest THANKS to each and every member of the Midwestern Region for doing their part for the Soroptimist organization. Without each of you, we could not be doing our job in helping women be their best. See all of you in a few weeks.

Best to all.

Vivian Walczesky
Governor 2016-2018
Midwestern Region USA

2018
April Dates to
Remember

April 27-29
2018
Spring Conference
– Sheraton Conference Center – Lisle, IL

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*

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18 men arrested in human trafficking mission

By: CNN

Posted: Mar 1, 2018 9:29 PM EST



<https://www.abc57.com/news/18-men-arrested-in-human-trafficking-mission>



END HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW!
Report a tip
Call 1-888-3737-888 or text BEFREE
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

THE VISION



Press Release: NGO CSW62 Forum

NGO CSW/NY is pleased to announce the NGO CSW62 Forum (March 11-23, 2018), organized in parallel with the Commission on the Status of Women to provide civil society an opportunity to engage with member states, United Nations agencies and other civil society members in the advancing of gender equality. The Forum which takes place in and near the United Nations headquarters is the largest Commission gathering at the United Nations. Each year thousands of people come to the NGO CSW Forum to amplify women and girls' voices to ensure that "no one is left behind".

With this year's priority theme, **Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**, and Review theme, **Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women**, NGO CSW/NY is again providing an opportunity for civil society to discuss and focus on the issues impacting both themes.

More importantly, it is an opportunity to inspire the more than 10,000 registered attendees to use the material learned at the Forum in their local arenas post conference. With more than 440 parallel events being organized by nongovernmental organizations that will provide best practices, insight into techniques that work and lessons learned, attendees will gain perspective on not only the problems facing women everywhere but also on how to advance the women's agenda in achieving gender equality. The Consultation Day programme (the launch of CSW62), Morning Briefings in the UN, Regional Caucuses, Advocacy Training, Media Zone and Rural Women's Network, and social events like the Reception, Rally and Artisan Fair, all is offered within the NGO CSW62 Forum.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY), is a coalition of hundreds of organizations and individuals working within the United Nations community to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls across the globe. Specifically by working in conjunction with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and UN Women, member states and other UN agencies, we strive to amplify women and girls' voices at the United Nations to ensure that "no one is left behind".

THE VISION

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission is also responsible for monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of 2000, at all levels, and to support gender mainstreaming. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Every year, representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the Commission's annual session. Usually held for ten days in March, the session provides an opportunity to review progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, identify challenges, set global standards and norms and formulate policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. The session is also a key opportunity for policy makers, advocates, researchers and activists to network and strategize, mobilize and plan new initiatives and actions to further the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment.



MEMBERSHIP OF CSW62

1. Albania, 2019
2. Bahrain, 2021
3. Bangladesh, 2018
4. Belgium, 2019
5. Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2019
6. Brazil, 2020
7. Canada, 2021
8. Chile, 2021
9. China, 2021
10. Colombia, 2019
11. Congo, 2018
12. Egypt, 2018
13. El Salvador, 2018
14. Equatorial Guinea, 2019
15. Eritrea, 2020
16. Estonia, 2021
17. Ghana, 2018
18. Guatemala, 2020
19. Guyana, 2018
20. India, 2018
21. Iran (Islamic Republic of), 2019
22. Ireland, 2021
23. Israel, 2021
24. Kazakhstan, 2018
25. Kenya, 2018
26. Kuwait, 2020
27. Liberia, 2019
28. Liechtenstein, 2019
29. Malawi, 2019
30. Mongolia, 2019
31. Namibia, 2021
32. Niger, 2021
33. Nigeria, 2020
34. Norway, 2020
35. Peru, 2021
36. Qatar, 2020
37. Republic of Korea, 2018
38. Russian Federation, 2020
39. Spain, 2019
40. Tajikistan, 2018
41. Trinidad and Tobago, 2020
42. Tunisia, 2021
43. United Kingdom, 2020
44. United Republic of Tanzania, 2018
45. Uruguay, 2018

THE VISION

FEELING THE POWER OF UNITED NATIONS WOMEN

I have had the desire to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meetings since I found out Soroptimist International had an advisory seat on this commission. This year I finally made it.

I had no idea of the magnitude of this annual conference, but I felt the power quickly. The power of 8,000 determined women from all over the world convening in the United Nations Building to do something about Gender Equity.

This women power included many women government leaders from over one hundred countries. Prime Ministers from Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Australia, and Nigeria led many of the opening sessions. Some briefings were presented by UN organizations including UN Women, UNESCO, World Food Programme, UNICEF, World Health Organization, the UN Office of Counter Terrorism. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) CEOs from worldwide organizations presented many inspiring briefings. These included Save the Children, YMCA, Salvation Army, Amnesty International and Women for Women International to name just a few. Women filmmakers have travelled to many third world countries to record how women are helping women survivors of violence recapture their lives. (Watch *Little Stones* on Netflix.) Women volunteers are committed to helping other women overcome economic obstacles to their own success. Health practitioners are dedicated to successfully educate women tribal leaders on preventing child marriages and female genitalia mutilation.

What did I take away with me from this experience? I have great Admiration for Eleanor Roosevelt, who had the foresight and energy to motivate all women to help each other, especially through the United Nations. I have Pride in the United States for being instrumen-

tal in founding the United Nations and keeping it going. I felt Awe from sharing the meeting space other country diplomats have shared in solving world problems. I felt Respect for other cultures as I listened to a translator provide English. I experienced Appreciation for the talented artists of the world, who have gifted many of their creations, which are currently hanging on the walls of the United Nations. I received Inspiration from witnessing thousands of women from all over the world show up to either present or attend a meeting. I shared Hope for the world since women continue to be highly motivated to help each other wherever they live, lead a better life. Finally, I witnessed the Power of Women who will not give up the quest of Gender Equity until equality is reached.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Burke, SIGP



T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ Greater Macomb

SI Greater Macomb held their annual Awards Banquet Dinner on March 15, 2018, at Sajo's Restaurant in Clinton Township. Each award recipient received their certificate and check. Chairperson Maggie Davis introduced the Live Your Dream Award Recipient Bridget Fisher who told us that it was always her dream to be a nurse. Bridget received \$1,500 and will realize that dream in the spring of 2019. Chairpersons Christa Rhoades and Shawn Murphy-Niemi presented the Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant to Kacey Corbin. Kacey received \$1,000 and will graduate in September 2018 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Psychology and minor in Human Resources. Finally, SIGM awarded a very special woman with the Ruby Award for her dedication to human trafficking awareness, prevention, and assistance to victims. She is the Executive Director of The Alabaster Gift (TAG), www.thealabastergift.org a human sex trafficking Drop-In Center, servicing women throughout southeast Michigan. TAG received \$1,000 from the Club. The nominator stated that the Executive Director's "passion to end human trafficking is fierce and noble. She goes beyond reaching victimized women by being a supportive and vocal representative throughout the community. She is an astonishing example of being a voice for the voiceless." Congratulations to all the award recipients. May all your future endeavors be successful!



Maggie Davis pictured with Bridget Fisher



Christa Rhoades and Shawn Murphy-Niemi pictured with Kacey Corbin

THE VISION

SI ~ Grosse Pointe

SOROPTIMIST International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) held their Awards Banquet at Assumption Cultural Center on March 14th. It was an honor to meet these very special women and to assist them with their educational expenses and their initiatives to help women.

This year Soroptimist awarded \$3,000 to Kywana Jefferson winner of the Live Your Dream Award that honors a woman attending school to improve employment opportunities and is the head of household. Jasmyne Robinson was awarded a second Live Your Dream Award of \$2,000 as part of the SIGP Memorial Award Fund. Both of these remarkable women are taking courses in the field of Social Work.

The Ruby Award acknowledges women who have made a positive difference in the lives of women and girls. It was awarded to Joan Richardson, one of three Ruby Award winners (not present: Sandy Mengel and Mary Garlough for their work in founding Days For Girls East. Their award of \$500 is being donated to Days for Girls East to purchase materials for the creation of personal hygiene kits for girls in third world countries.

Marlene Ryan was awarded \$3,000 as the winner of the Virginia Wagner Educational Grant that honors a woman enrolled in a university degree program. Marlene has also won additional \$500 from Soroptimist District III and her application moves forward for judging in the Soroptimist Midwestern Region Virginia Wagner Educational Grant for \$2,500. Marlene will complete a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health this year and plans on becoming a mental health counselor.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization of women working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. SIGP has been a club in Grosse Pointe for 62 years and is 63 members strong!

Live Your Dream Award \$3000



Kywanna F. Jefferson

Live Your Dream Award \$2,000



Jasmyne Robinson

Virginia Wagner Award \$3,000



Marlene Joy Ryan
Marlene is also District III VW Winner

Ruby Award \$500

Days for Girls



Joan Richardson
Not pictured
Sandra Megel
Mary Garlough

T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ Lucas County

The Live Your Dream Award dinner for SI Lucas County was held the evening of March 13, 2018. This year we honored three women for their efforts to obtain the education they needed to live their dreams. Each of the women was from a different institution of learning and each of their goals were different. One was in a nursing program, one was in the culinary arts, and the other was working for a management position in the medical field. They all spoke of their journey in pursuit of their goals and the obstacles they have overcome. They and their guests along with our members were treated to a wonderful dinner at the Sidon in Toledo, Ohio.

It was an inspiring evening for everyone and we are looking forward to next year.

SI ~ Indy Metro



Live Your Dream
Scholarship
1st Place Winner: Maria Hernandez
Maria goes to IUPUI and will graduate in December. She

will receive \$1,000 and is in the running for the District award. (not pictured)

2nd Place Winner: Leonah Walker
Leona is our 2nd place winner and will receive \$500.

Virginia Wagner Educational Grant
Winner: Sarah H. Rolle

Sarah goes to the University of Indianapolis.
Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Awards dinner and networking event a success.



Members of SI Lucas County are all standing and their Award Winners are seated.

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SI ~ Chicago



Save the Date!

Soroptimist International of Chicago

80th Anniversary

Saturday, June 2, 2018 Luncheon

Contact sichicago@yahoo.com for further information

**CONGRATULATION ON 80 YEARS
OF SERVICE!**

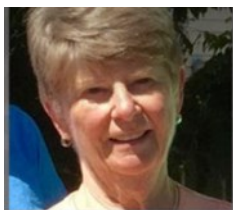
THE VISION

SI ~ Dayton

During our Soroptimist Retreat on March 10th, we formalized our bylaws, discussed strategic direction for this next year, planned upcoming events and had a great time socializing. Member Susan Gruenberg is leading the CORY Project (Community Outreach for Missing Children) and several members helped to distribute missing children posters. Susan shared that over 315 posters were distributed to hotels, malls, and other locations throughout the Miami Valley during the NCAA First Four Basketball tournament held in Dayton. This is the first of four poster distributions scheduled for this calendar year. The club is also participating in the Love Epidemic Conference on April 24th at the Christian Life Center in Dayton. This faith community collaborative is focused on serving those that are suffering from addiction, have resources and/or knowledge that can assist the faith community as they plan a coordinated response to the growing need, have been im-

SI ~ Bloomington-Normal

School of Kinesiology and Recreation Professor Emeritus Sandra Groves.



Sandra Groves, a retired professor in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation, has supported Illinois State University for decades. With the launch of Redbirds Rising: The

Campaign for Illinois State, Groves has turned her attention towards mobilizing faculty and staff to contribute.

"It is important to participate," Groves said. "Participate not just by giving your money, but by becoming part of institutional traditions. That level of participation will increase your commitment. And the institution will be committed back to you."

SI ~ Dayton continued

pacted personally by the drug epidemic, or are just wanting to join the conversation. We will have a booth to display information about Soroptimist, our anti-human trafficking initiatives and the "STOP" sticker program. On March 11th, member Tish Wilson was featured in a Dayton Daily News article, "Librarian helped pick a Caldecott winner." Tish Wilson chaired one of the nation's most prestigious selection committees. When the 15,000-member American Library Association gathers for its awards banquet in June to present the 2018 Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book for children, Wilson will be introducing the winners. Tish and 14 library colleagues examined hundreds of submissions before choosing "Wolf in the Snow" illustrated and written by Matthew Cordell. Tish spent 44 years in Ohio public libraries before her retirement in 2017.

Groves spent her early career in municipal and county park and recreation agencies throughout Illinois and Kansas, before being led into higher education. She moved to Pennsylvania from Illinois to be an instructor at Penn State University. Being successful at teaching, Groves was encouraged to earn her Ph.D. at Penn State and become a faculty member. Upon completing her doctorate, she returned to Illinois to become an assistant professor at Illinois State University.

Groves started giving back to Illinois State from the start. Giving early started a process where she was able to identify specific places of need at Illinois State and make a greater impact on those issues later on in life.

While at Illinois State, Groves was a Graduate Coordinator for Kinesiology and Recreation and often found herself assisting graduate students with tuition waivers and identifying other sources of funding. As part of her retirement,

THE VISION

SI ~ BN continued

fellow faculty members started The Sandra Little Groves Graduate Student Emergency Assistance Endowed Fund in 2008, which awards money to graduate students that need financial assistance.

Groves enjoyed meeting the students her scholarship supported. Seeing the impact of her philanthropy encouraged her to seek out additional ways to support her passion at Illinois State. In 2014, Groves launched The Sandra Little Groves Recreation and Park Administration Faculty Development Fund. The fund supports faculty development opportunities for the School of Kinesiology and Recreation's Recreation and Park Administration program. The philanthropic dollars have been used to help faculty with establishing a research agenda as they pursue promotion and tenure.

For faculty and staff just starting out, Groves recommends starting small. Often the best place to start is within your own unit on campus.

"I am happy that I responded to my department's call to give," Groves said. "That is the best place to start as that money goes right back to supporting your students and fellow faculty."

Groves is excited about the timing of Redbirds Rising.

"There are so many positive things going on for Illinois State," Groves said. "The leadership at the institution, strong enrollment, new opportunities... a whole variety of things have risen. This campaign is part of that continued rising process and to bring that to the forefront for more people."

To learn more about how you can support your passion at Illinois State, visit RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu.

SI ~ Monroe

The District February 3, 2019
Healthy Living Roundtable: Monroe Golf and Country Club

The featured presenter for our Roundtable was Cindy Vedra, who is a certified health coach and massage therapist who was very inspiring and motivating. Governor Vivian did a very informative presentation of the role of Soroptimist International in the United Nations. She also gave a great overview of the region's "Guidelines for a Healthy Soroptimist Club" for the Midwestern Region. It was a great event attended by several clubs in our district. Great job by the Program Committee and the venue was excellent! This event also allows for Club Sharing



THE VISION

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

March 13, 2018

Club Liability Insurance

To protect US and Canadian clubs from general liability claims, clubs are required to purchase club general liability insurance. As a service, SIA Headquarters manages the procurement of this group insurance coverage for the clubs under a master policy, where risks and costs are shared among all clubs in the pool. A per capita insurance fee is charged all U.S and Canadian members and paid with their federation dues. In the past twelve months, there have been two instances of catastrophic losses at club events. SIA has not experienced this type of loss rate before which has kept our premiums low. In reviewing our coverage, our insurance underwriter, Great American, has stated the number and types of events clubs are now holding, as well as the coverage for liquor liability, increases the risk exposure associated with our account. As a result of this review, they will be increasing our annual premium by 35%.

To minimize the risk to the organization, hold the line on future liability losses and therefore premium increases, we will be holding webinars to educate clubs in managing risk. These webinars are expected to begin in the fall of 2018. Information on these webinars will follow. In the meantime, please review the attached information.

The Board has approved an increase in the per capita insurance fee from \$3 to \$5 for U.S. and Canadian members, effective with dues for club year 2018-2019 to cover the increase in premium.

Dues COLA increase

Your SIA board has also approved a \$2 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) effective with dues for club year 2018-2019.

Why is a COLA necessary? Inflation. Inflation erodes the strength of a currency and reduces purchasing power. By not adjusting our dues for cost of living, we will have the same dues revenue coming in but our costs will have increased due to inflation. To balance out natural cost increases, we need to adjust for cost of living to hedge against inflation and the ever-increasing inflationary cost of the member services we expect as individuals and clubs.

This \$2 dues increase is equal to a 2.78% increase which we compared to the projected 2018 Cost of Living Adjustment of 3%.

If you have any questions about this increase, please do not hesitate to email me.

Best regards,

Dawn Marie Lemonds

2017-2018 SIA President

Dawn Marie Lemonds

dawnmarie.lemonds14@gmail.com



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A Message from our Membership Chair Fran Ingram

Membership Moments

I have some exciting and wonderful news for our Midwestern Region members. Here are the numbers:

Members as of June 30, 2017 690

Members as of Feb 29, 2018 770 (this is from the last report received from SIA)

Clubs under 12 members as of June 30, 2017 - 5

Clubs under 12 members as of Feb 29, 2018 - 3 Well done ladies

Compared to the 28 Regions in our Federation SIMWR ranks # 7 in the third quarter at 14.94% increase in membership.

For New Charters in North America SIMWR ranked 6 out of 12 with our Charter of Greater Detroit. It sounds good but overall our competition is stiff. In the Pacific Rim with 17 new clubs chartered, the Philippines added 12 new clubs.

SI Dayton in the 3rd Quarter showed a 50% membership growth. WOW!!!

With 28 Regions in SIA, SIMWR is the 7 highest ranking region for the 3rd quarter with new member adds. WELL DONE LADIES!!!

You have been challenged and you answered the call. Congratulations are due to the following clubs who added new members in February Illiana-1, Kenton-1 Hancock County Area -2, Greater Detroit -3 Grosse Pointe -1, and Canton/Stark Co. -2.

If you have not received all the pens that you deserve for the year, please let me know at the Region meeting in Lisle. I will

be awarding pens for each new member and their recruiting member until June 30, 2018. I have lots of pens to give away so recruit, recruit, recruit and turn in the dues and let me know. The month of June statistics will be sent out in July and I will not be receiving that report so I must be contacted directly if new members are added in June.

Remember that new charter members added in the last quarter need only pay 1/4th of the SIA dues and charter fee to SIA and the region dues and the dues due to SIA and the region for the 2018-2019 club year.

For new members to an existing club the regular amount of dues are due.

I hope you are planning to attend Midwestern Region meeting in Lisle April 27 – 29, 2018 and attend the Membership workshop entitled “Club Chartering” by our Federation visitor, Heidi McNamar, a SIA board members from the Northeastern Region.

Keep on recruiting and see you in Lisle.
Fran Ingram, Membership Chair



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SI ~ Trenton

Trenton Area Soroptimist's Host
"Mommy-Daughter Tea"

To celebrate Mother's Day and introduce women and girls to Soroptimist, the Trenton Area Soroptimists are hosting their first "Mommy – Daughter Tea Party" on May 12, 2018. This fun event will take place from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at the Cook Community Center, 14100 Navarre Street, in Gibraltar.

Please join us for this very special tea party for mothers, daughters, or granddaughters. Bring a new doll with you that will be donated to underprivileged girls, and you will be entered into a raffle to win an American girl doll.

You can purchase tickets on line at this link: <https://formsmarts.com/form/1qb6?mode=h5>
The cost is \$20.00 for mom and one child; \$5.00 for each additional child. We will also have printed tickets soon. Just see any Trenton Soroptimist for those.

Tea, punch, desserts, and snacks as well as face painting, balloon animals, and character visits are included in the price.



Mommy and Me Tea Party
When: Saturday May 12, 2018
Where: Cook Community Center
14100 Navarre St. Gibraltar MI 48173
Time: 1:00 - 3:00PM

Tickets: \$20 for mother and daughter and \$5 for each additional child

Bring a new doll to donate to underprivileged girls and be entered to win an American Girl Doll!

**Surprise Character Face Painting
Balloon Animals and more!**

Presented by Soroptimist International Trenton Area

Dress to the "Tea"

Light lunch and refreshments will be provided

LIMITED # of Tickets

SI ~ Suburban Chicago

On Saturday, March 24th, Suburban Chicago hosted the residents at Family Shelter Service (FSS) for Dinner and Bingo. A combination of 18 Moms and Children enjoyed the dinner (menu provided) and then played Bingo for prizes. Six members and a volunteer guest cooked, decorated, called Bingo and cleaned up afterward.

This is our 28th year working with FSS and they will benefit from your donations at Spring Conference in April. They are so appreciative that we will be collecting for their shelter this year!



Come Join Us
 Soroptimist International
 of
 Suburban Chicago

Everybody Welcome

Saturday, March 24th
 5:00 pm – 7:30pm

Menu
 Barbecued Pulled Chicken
 Chicken Nuggets for kids
 Mostaccioli
 Garlic Bread
 Veggie Tray/Salad
 Potato Salad/ Chips
 Brownies, Cookies, etc.
 Beverages

Bingo prizes for all ages!
Raffle for the ladies!

THE VISION

SI ~ Trenton

2018 Trenton Soroptimists' Awards Banquet
Three local women were recognized with monetary awards from the Trenton Soroptimist's for their ambition and contribution to society. The honors banquet was held on March 20 at Trenton's Grand Event. Several judges, local professional and business people, were in attendance to celebrate with the winners and their families. The Midwest Region Governor, Vivian Walczesky and District 3 Director, Darcy Merritt, joined the festivities. The applicants were evaluated on a set criteria and essays that assessed their contributions to women and society. Soroptimist is an organization of almost 1,500 clubs in nineteen countries for and by dedicated women who use their collective power to help other women and girls transform their physical, mental, and emotional lives and the lives of their families.

Judging for the Virginia Wagner Educational Grant is based on women attending a college or university with an effort toward scholarship, extra-curricular activities, and financial need. Megan Moma, the winner from Grosse Ile, was born in Alaska where experiencing marine life gave her a love of nature. Animals helped her tough transition to her move to Michigan in the sixth grade. She started horseback riding and caring for neighbors' pets to lift her spirits, and she knew she wanted to pursue a career related to animals. Miss Moma enrolled at Grand Valley State University in the fall of 2017 with a major in Biology and emphasis in Ecology and Evolution, and plans to volunteer at the Grand Rapids Zoo. Megan wants to obtain a graduate degree in Marine Biology with the goal of saving animals and their environment. She has applied to a Coastal Research Lab at Southern Mississippi University and Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, Alaska. Megan has worked at various jobs to save money for college while taking AP classes. She earned her highest GPA doing all of this in her senior year. Her personal challenge during her adolescence was a diagnosis of partial anodontia (most of her adult teeth never formed), which required multiple dental surgeries of bone

grafts and implants. Megan's parents, Diane and Paul Moma, received her award while she was busy attending her classes at Grand Valley.

To qualify for the Soroptimist International of Trenton Area's Soroptimist Prime award, a young woman who is attending high school in our five-city region must be actively helping to make her community and world a better place through volunteer efforts. This year's recipient is a senior attending Grosse Ile High School. Diana Nunez found her "calling" to serve during middle school after helping at The Friendly Center, a place where children who received meals in school were fed during the summer. Her early experience led to her volunteer work at Gleaners Community Food Bank as a speaking ambassador in which she spreads awareness of this worthy operation. Diana's efforts have recruited over forty volunteers to join Gleaners. In addition to her volunteer work at Gleaners, she implemented a hunger project in the kindergarten class in which she teaches at Sacred Heart. Diana also assists in the PB&J Ministry to make bagged lunches for homeless shelters. As a member of her Grosse Ile High's cross country and track teams, Diana logs miles in an app called "Charity Miles," which donates twenty-five cents per mile to "Feeding America." She and her teammates have raised about \$1600.

The Live Your Dream award assists women who have the primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills, training, and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and for their families. It helps women who have faced economic and personal hardships to live their dreams. Kenya Harper-Black from Redford is a student at Baker College in Allen Park majoring in Human Services. Kenya has had to endure and overcome some harsh realities in her life. Her many childhood dreams were derailed when she was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis in her freshman high school year. Despite her disability, Kenya graduated from high school, albeit with

THE VISION

SI ~ Trenton continued

some literacy difficulty and without a plan or direction for her future. She wandered through various purposeless jobs until, at age 26, her daughter was born with a disability. Believing that God had blessed her with a special needs child because he knew she could handle the challenge, Kenya found her life's purpose and the courage to face her fears and overcome any obstacle. To help teach her daughter to read, Kenya took classes to improve her own literacy and began writing poetry and children's books. Because of her daughter's disability and her own disability, she began studying healthier living techniques and ways to develop better parenting skills. She became involved in school volunteering and the community, advocating for people with disabilities. Kenya credits her daughter and being the parent of a special needs child with making her the woman and mother she is today. Despite limited resources and being wheelchair bound, and despite her husband being unable to work due to back surgery, Kenya is pursuing a Bachelor of Human Service degree from Baker College and plans to graduate in June of 2020. She continues to work for Michigan Alliance for Families, a non-profit which helps families with special needs children and hopes her degree will lead to further advancement there. Kenya is an active volunteer in numerous community organizations: the Redford Interfaith Relief Church for low-income families, the Michigan Special Education Advisory Committee, the Starfish Family Services Wrap-around Team, the student group RISE at Baker College, and Michigan Alliance for Families. She is planning to publish a coloring and activities children's book on how to interact with children who have disabilities and to start a support group that provides free workshops on strategies for healthy relationships and financial literacy for those fami-

lies. She is pursuing her dream and is this year's Trenton Area Soroptimist Live Your Dream award recipient, as well as winning district top honors and being runner-up at the regional level.

If you are interested in learning more about Soroptimist, visit on Facebook at Soroptimist Trenton, MI or the website: sioftrentonarea.wixsite.com/si-of-trenton-area#!



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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Governor-Elect Kris Armstrong

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THE WEB!
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Karrie Blankenship
SI Grosse Pointe
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Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2016 / 2018 Board



Seated Left to Right: D3 Director Darcy Merritt; Governor Vivian Walczesky;
D2 Secretary Jennifer Prater
Standing: Secretary Anita Craig; D4 Director Christine Fowler Shearer;
D1 Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert; Governor Elect Kris Armstrong;
D1 Director Gayle Bradburn; Treasurer Valencia Clark; D4 Secretary Abby Bouton;
D2 Directory Barb Flory; D3 Secretary Mary Pilon

Connections for the 2016—2018 Midwestern Board

Emails Contacts

Governor- **Vivian Walczesky** - (vivianwal@sbcglobal.net)

Governor-Elect **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)

Secretary - **Anita Newman** - (siurbana@soroptimist.net)

Treasurer - **Valencia Clark** - (vclark003@columbus.rr.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)



MIDWESTERN REGION 2017-2018

FOCUS - IMPORTANT DATES

**** Use MWR dates for ALL awards – do not use SIA dates ****

July 1	Club Celebrating Success Entries due to Vicky Hicks
July 1	2017-2018 Club Dues to SIA HQ with Club Officer info
July 1	2017-2018 Member & Club dues to MWR w/Club officer info
July 21-23	MWR Summer Board Meeting – Middlebury, IN
October 6-7	District I & III Meeting at Best Western – Hilton Garden Inn Chesterton, IN
October 20-21	District II & IV Meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Lima OH
November 15	Form 990 due to IRS
November 15	Live Your Dream Applications due to Clubs
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 10	Human Rights Day – SI President's Appeal
December 15	Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director
2018	
January 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in US
January 15	Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Club
January 15	District LYD Award Winners due to Region Chair
February 15	Virginia Wagner Club Award Winner due to District Director
February 15	Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Valencia by Region Chair
March 1	Soroptimist Club Grant Applications due at SI HQ
March 8	International Women's Day
March 8	Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair
March 15	Award Report due from District Directors to Governor-Elect Kris
March 31	Region Virginia Wagner Award winners names to Region Treasurer Valencia by Region Chair
March 31	Governor's Club Award form due to Governor Vivian
April 27-29	2018 Spring Conference – Sheraton Conference Center – Lisle, IL
July 30- August 2	SIA Convention – Yokohama, Japan



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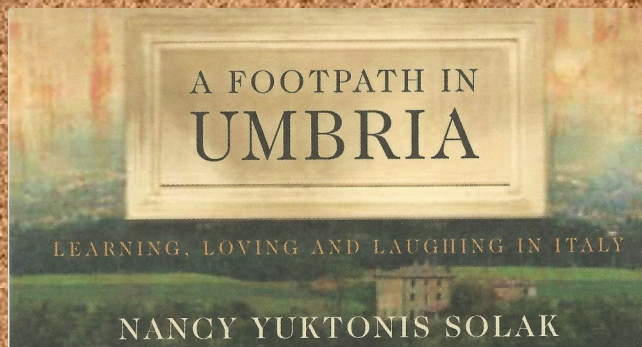
SI Kenton Hardin County OH

It's official! Lilacs & Sawdust is finally a reality. My brother Paul and I are pretty excited. We have a booth in Beech tree Antiques in Mt. Victory.



Missie and Paul have a booth in an established antique shop in Mt. Victory. We offer handcrafted and vintage items.

SI Grosse Pointe, MI



A Reluctant Traveler

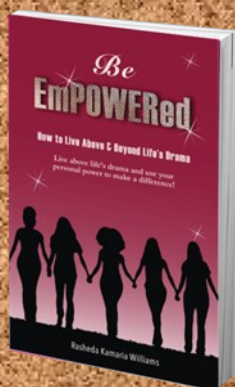
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FowlerArtistic@gmail.com or [216.408.4124](tel:216.408.4124)



Nancy Solak is an award-winning writer and editor and author of the travel memoir, *A Footpath in Umbria: Living, Loving & Laughing in Italy* and her latest book *Welcome to Here: A Reluctant Traveler Goes to China*

She is also a certified instructor of the Amherst Writers & Artists method and facilitates writing workshops. <https://www.areluctanttraveler.net>

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11.51 miles away
14000 Lakeside Circle,
Space #2035
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
(586)532-9625

Macomb Mall

11.75 miles away
32281 Gratiot Ave,
Space # 240
Roseville, MI 48066
586-294-5233

Great Lakes Crossing

27.36 miles away
4000 Baldwin Rd,
Space # 830
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
(248) 745-6230

Hunters Square

31.65 miles away
31077 Orchard Lake Rd.,
Space #100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248)737-5960

Novi Town Center

38.14 miles away
26058 Ingersol Dr.,
Space #26056B
Novi, MI 48375
(248)305-3087

Westland Mall

38.80 miles away
35000 Warren Rd,
Space # 734 A

Westland, MI 48185

734-266-0305

Southland Center

40.60 miles away
23000 Eureka Rd,
Space #1500

Taylor, MI 48180

734-287-6665

Green Oak Village Place

51.45 miles away
9640 Village Place Blvd,
Space # E8

Brighton, MI 48116

810-225-9555

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3315 S Linden Rd,
Space # 550

Flint, MI 48507

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12240 S. Beyer Rd.,
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Birch Run, MI 48415

989-624-9911

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