



# The Pointer

## A NOTE FROM SIGP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In this uncertain time due to COVID-19 (aka the corona virus), we want to extend our heartfelt wishes that you and your loved ones are faring well.

Despite the need to socially distant ourselves, SIGP members have been using the online application called Zoom to interact. Committee meetings and book club have been held on Zoom. Some members are setting up times to play Pictionary. **The SIGP Board will hold its April Board Meeting Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. online.**

**Our general meeting will not be held in person this month.** If it is decided to try to hold it online, you will be notified via email along with directions on how to participate.

Meanwhile, do consider downloading Zoom (it's free for meetings of 40 minutes or less; \$15/month otherwise). It's best to do it on a computer or tablet—telephones are too small.

Our club has purchased a one-month subscription to Zoom for meetings and for any of you who simply want to get together while sipping your favorite beverage. If you want to host a meeting on the club's Zoom membership, reserve your spot by calling Mary Ellen Burke, 313-399-8934.

Please know that SIGP members continue to work our club's magic online in preparation for the time when we will once again be "free to move around the cabin." Please stay safe.

**Our SIGP AWARDS DINNER went off without a hitch on**

**March 11. Please see following pages for a report and photos.**

## SIGP (OUR CLUB!) Presents \$11,650 in Awards!



*SIGP President Aleksa Andjelkovic, and special guests Midwest Region Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt, and Midwest Region Fundraising Chair, Patricia Cavell.*

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) held its Annual Awards Ceremony at Assumption Cultural Center on March 11, 2020. A total of 66 people attended the inspirational event, which included 35 Soroptimist members, 6 awardees and their families, and 12 other guests including Midwest Region Governor-elect, Darcy Merritt and Midwest Region Fundraising Chair, Patricia Cavell. SIGP President Aleksandra Andjelkovic announced that six women were receiving monetary awards to honor their achievements and fund their educational efforts.



*Deborah Smith (center) receives her award from SIGP Live Your Dream co-chairs Bette Lepouttre and Carolyn Barth.*

The **Live Your Dream (LYD)** award is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas. The first-place winner of \$3,000 was **Deborah Smith**. She is a single parent and a student at Wayne State University in the Social Work bachelor's program. Her goal is to continue into the master's program. She plans to use her degree to help women gain understanding on how to overcome adversity and achieve dreams.



*Live Your Dream recipient Lavina Hutchinson.*

The second-place LYD winner, **Lavina Hutchinson**, was awarded \$2000. At an early age she was the primary support for her two younger half-sisters and continues to be the primary support of her 18-year-old sister, taking on the "mother role." Rising above these challenges, she earned an Associate Degree in general studies from Wayne State University and is currently in the Macomb Community College nursing program working on her Associate Degree in Nursing. She plans to graduate at the end of this academic year and will immediately begin a bachelor's degree in Nursing at Oakland University.

*(More awards and photos on next page)*



**Angeles Cuevas Cervantes** was awarded the **Virginia Wagner Educational Award of \$3,000**. Angeles is a first-generation college student from Southwest Detroit who will complete her bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University in Language & International Careers-Spanish. Her goal is to become a licensed certified interpreter and start a business using her talents in her community.

The **Soroptimist Ruby Award** is given to women who have made a positive difference in the lives of other women and girls. **Amanda Good**, CEO and one of the founders of **Alternatives for Girls (AFG)**, was awarded a \$500 donation to be used to help homeless, high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, exploitation and teen pregnancy.



Angeles Cuevas Cervantes receives her award from SIGP member and Virginia Wagner committee member, Diana Langlois. Also serving on the committee were Maddy Colavito and Liz Lucas.



Deb Ellinger accepted an award on behalf of her non-profit, Elli's House.



Missy Kinyon and Jenelle Lefief accepted an award on behalf of their nonprofit, Phoemale.

A new award this year is SIGP's **Anti-Human Trafficking Award**. This award was made possible as a result of SIGP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5k Walk/Run held in partnership with St. Lucy's Catholic Church and the Lakeshore Family YMCA. An award of \$1,575 was presented to each of these

two organizations: **Elli's House and Phoemale**. **Elli's House** is a nonprofit organization founded by Deb Ellinger that serves homeless women involved in human trafficking. The mission of Elli's house is to abolish sex trafficking in the city of Detroit through building relationships, offering safe shelter and providing education. **Phoemale**, a nonprofit organization helping women rebuild their lives, was created by **Jenelle Lefief** and **Missy Kinyon** for women who have suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and/or homelessness.



The Ruby Award is presented to Amanda (Amy) Good, CEO of Alternatives for Girls, by SIGP members Carolyn Barth and Laura McCourt.

Photos courtesy of  
Renee Rodriguez Photography

## 2020 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

**Note: Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the May meeting provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.**

**Fingers crossed, installation will occur at June meeting.**

### UP FOR ELECTION ARE:

Co-Presidents: Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich Rosenthal  
President Elect: Karrie Blankenship  
Vice President: Laura McCourt  
Secretary: Maureen Anthony  
Asst Secretary: Diana Langlois  
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Burke  
Asst Treasurer: Bette Lepouttre  
Director: Madeline Colavito  
Director: Nancy Solak  
Past President: Aleksa Andjelovic

*Mary Ellen Burke, Nomination Committee Chair*

*Karrie Blankenship, Nomination Committee Member*

*Madeline Jeffs Colavito, Nomination Committee Member*

## Anti-Human Trafficking Update

Mary Ellen Brayton, Laurie Jost and I have decided that in light of the recommendations of Soroptimist International of the Americas headquarters (SIAHQ) that we cancel all events through June 1<sup>st</sup> for good measure.

We are also canceling our August 29th Human Trafficking Awareness 5K Walk/Run. With the social distancing and closing of businesses, we felt it best to postpone this event until the spring of 2021. We feel an August event and the new recommendations from SIAHQ (see below) would not give us sufficient time to create a successful event.

*...if you are with a club located in the US or Canada, our club and region liability coverage does not cover communicable diseases. Holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIA headquarters (SIAHQ). You must postpone or cancel all club events at least through May 11; June 1, for good measure.—SIAHQ*

Once we are able to gather without the threat of spreading this disease, your committee co-chairs will schedule a meeting to continue our efforts with a new 5K Walk/Run date and the rest of the duties needed to ensure a successful event.

If you are a sub-committee chairperson and can communicate with your team via email and phone to complete your duties, please do so. The more we can get accomplished during this downtime via technology, the further ahead we will be when we are able to reconvene.

Thank you all for your commitment to this event and hope to see you all very soon.

In Soroptimist Friendship,

*Your Committee Co-Chairs: Karrie Blankenship - Mary Ellen Brayton - Laurie Jost*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aleksa Andjelkovic

*President*

Carolyn Barth

*Program/Service Chairwoman*

Dorothea Williams

*VP / Membership*

Roseanne Horne

Ross Braun

*Past Presidents*

Mary Ellen Burke

*Treasurer*

Bette Lepouttre

*Assistant Treasurer*

*Fundraising*

Mary Ellen Brayton

*Secretary*

Ellen Chapin

*Assistant Secretary*

*Public Awareness*

Myra Golden

*Director*

Marya Malkovich Rosenthal

*Director*

*Hospitality Chair*

## POSITIVE IMAGES: Donation Request & Update

Positive Images Director Maisha Kenyatta called to make a request:

If you can spare any supplies that are in high demand and not on shelves, Positive Images (PI) would appreciate them. PI could use things such as: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, bleach, masks, plastic gloves, tissue, and toilet paper.

Even if it's just one box of Kleenex or one package of toilet paper, together we can make a positive difference.

Please drop items off on **Bette LePouttre's porch, 191 RIDGEMONT, GP FARMS by Monday, April 6**. Bette will collect them and contact Maisha to pick them up. As always, thank you for helping in these challenging days.

\* \* \* \* \*

As of this writing, Maisha reports that no client is ill at Positive Images. That includes both East Grand Boulevard houses and Coplin residential center. However, no new clients will be admitted as long as the shelter-in mandate is in place. Many staff are reporting to work and some counselors are doing video conferences with clients from their homes. Everyone is trying to get through these shelter-in days with patience.

It looks like the first part of the roof repair at the E. Warren administrative building will begin soon. This is due to the Detroit building permit red tape being waived since the office is shut down. This might be one of the only positive things that will happen because of the corona virus!

## Get Well Soon, Myra!

SIGP member Myra Golden is safe at home after a hospitalization. She'd very much enjoy receiving notes and cards of encouragement. Since she is resting, please no phone calls. AND in light of the virus going around, please do not visit or drop anything off at her house. Her address is: 16475 Stricker, (not Strickler) Eastpointe, MI 48021.

## Junior League of Detroit Show House Rescheduled

The Junior League of Detroit has rescheduled the 2020 Designers' Show House to Saturday, September 19 through Sunday, October 4, 2020. Therefore we will not be going in May for our group tour.

Once I get the dates for group tours, I will let everyone know and we can choose a new date.

Hope you are all doing well and "staying home, staying safe and saving lives" as our Governor advised.

Take care and call if you need anything!  
*Roseanne Horne, Past President SIGP*

## Mentor for Success Orientation to be rescheduled

While we wait for the library to reopen and for people to be able to congregate again, here are some thoughts from SIGP member and Mentor for Success Orientation presenter Rasheda Kamaria Williams.

### Adults and children need mentors

Have you thought about mentoring in the past but you were not sure if it's right for you or your schedule? Are you driven to make a difference but not sure where to apply your positive energy?

### Find your passion

As you are aware, SIGP is launching the **Beyond Live Your Dream: Mentor for Success** initiative. This program is designed to mentor adult women, such as those who are pursuing an education and/or working while often balancing family, internships and life overall. Individual mentors are needed to provide support and encouragement to each of these women as they work to reach their full potential.

On the other hand, some of you may be more interested in working with children and teens. Young people of all ages and backgrounds are in need of positive role models.

### Making time to mentor

Mentoring programs have evolved over the years to accommodate mentors' and mentees' busy schedules and very specific interests and goals.

Modern technology enables us to make a difference without leaving the comfort of home or office. If you have at least an hour a week and a smartphone, laptop or desktop, you can be a mentor.

### Research from MENTOR

*The National Mentoring Partnership has shown that when matched through a quality mentor program, mentors can play a powerful role in providing mentees with the tools to make responsible decisions, stay focused and engaged in school.*

If you're considering mentoring with SIGP or any other organization, visit [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org) for resources on the topic.



*Rasheda gives an update on the new mentoring program at SIGP's Awards Ceremony.*

*Rasheda  
Kamaria*

Mentor, TEDx Speaker &  
Chief Empowering Officer  
Empowered Flower Girl  
313-492-3879 (Cell)  
[www.rashedakamaria.com](http://www.rashedakamaria.com)

*Rasheda Kamaria Williams is an award-winning mentor, mentoring/youth empowerment speaker and chief empowering officer for Empowered Flower Girl. Listen to her mentoring talks at [www.rashedakamaria.com](http://www.rashedakamaria.com)*

**Next SIGP Board Meeting** Thursday, April 2, 2020, online through Zoom.

## Greetings to Soroptimists around the world!



I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those who have spent so many hours preparing for Commission on the Status of Women 64 (CSW64). SI was better prepared than ever before with side events, parallel events, opportunities for meetings, advocacy training, the SI reception and of course social events galore with sisters from around the world. We have continued to increase our global advocacy voice over the years and are so disappointed we could not execute our plans in New York during these weeks of CSW64.

In addition to New York, meetings have been cancelled or postponed in Bangkok, Geneva, Rome, and Vienna. We will continue to monitor the situation and collaborate with other like-minded NGOs to ensure that Civil Society is included and our voice is heard.

Many Soroptimist events worldwide are under review and many are turning to virtual events to accommodate the desire to continue our work. Soroptimist International is also working to increase the delivery of information virtually.

These are unprecedented times and I hope that all of you and your loved ones remain in good health as COVID-19 moves through all corners of our world.

Be safe

*Sharon Fisher, SI President 2020-2021*

## APRIL — Happy Birthday to ...

Katherine Baetz, April 1

Cara Crawford, April 6

Donna Fitzgerald, April 11

Laura McCourt, April 27



From UN Women Posted by Evelyne  
Para, SI in France



Posted on FB by Margaret Clark.....SI in UK



Posted by Hilary Laider, SI in UK

# SIA Membership Updates

For those of you interested in learning more about Membership totals for our clubs, region and federation please see below.

## Soroptimist of the Americas

Individual Members: **29,980**

Total Clubs: **1,260**

SIA showed a net increase of 223 members during February 2020. This is a 7.5% decrease from the previous 5-year average net increase of 241 members during the month of February. The organization also showed a net increase of two clubs this month.

## Region Membership updates:

- During February 2020, 24 regions showed a monthly increase in membership over January 2020. Meanwhile, one region decreased in membership this month and four regions showed no change during February.
- Additionally, 13 regions (América del Sur, Board Directed SIA Northern Philippines, Camino Real, Central East Coast, Desert Coast, Founder, México-Centroamérica, **Midwestern**, Northeastern, Northwestern, Philippines, Taiwan, and Western Canada) show growth in a year-over-year increase in membership compared to February 2019, more than at the same period last year when five regions showed year-over-year growth.

## Midwestern Region:

- ◆ Individual Members: **740** (as of 2-29-2020)
- ◆ Total Clubs: **30**
- ◆ **Total # of Members: 740**

## Midwestern Region Club Membership Totals (as of 2-29-2020)

Club	total members:	Club	total members:
Chicago, IL	17	Fremont, OH	33
Fond Du Lac, WI	40	Mount Vernon & Knox County., OH	31
Milwaukee, WI	16	Zanesville, OH	26
Bloomington-Normal, IL	23	Suburban Franklin County, OH	12
Suburban-Chicago, IL	15		
Illiana, IL	26	<b>Total # of Clubs: 30</b>	
Indianapolis Metro, IN	15		
Dayton, OH	17		
Middletown, OH	18		
Anderson, IN	25		
Kenton, OH	34		
Tipp City and the Upper Miami Valley, OH	15		
Urbana, OH	21		
Lucas County, OH	12		
Hancock County Area, OH	10		
Tri-State Midwest	12		
Cleveland, OH	36		
Flat Rock Area, MI	38		
<b>Grosse Pointe, MI</b>	<b>67</b>		
Greater Macomb, MI	20		
Monroe County, MI	41		
Oakland County, MI	09		
Trenton Area, MI	45		
Downriver Area, MI	16		
Canton/Stark County, OH	30		
Columbus and Franklin County, OH	20		



Posted by Hilary Laidler, Soroptimist in UK

## District III Emails

Governor- **Kris Armstrong** - (krisquin@msn.com)  
Governor Elect- **Darcy Merritt** (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)  
Secretary - **Missie Austin** - (missieaustin@gmail.com)  
Treasurer - **Audrey Jarvey** - (audreyjarv@charter.net)  
District III Director - **Mary Pilon** (pilonmary0@gmail.com)  
District III Secretary - **Lata Shastri** (shastrilata@gmail.com)

## 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 International of the Americas -  
([soroptimist.org/about-us/contact-us/index.html](http://soroptimist.org/about-us/contact-us/index.html))  
For upcoming SIGP events and information, click the link  
<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>

## Soroptimist Pledge

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.



## The Who's Who of SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events and dates to this e-mail so the information  
can be accessed by all public awareness chairs: [socialmediasigp@gmail.com](mailto:socialmediasigp@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [grossepointesoroptimist.net](http://grossepointesoroptimist.net) ..... Carrie Petrocelli  
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar-of-events.html> for calendar

E-MAIL: [grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com) ..... Anne Schwartz

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe](https://facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe) ..... Renee Rodriguez  
INSTAGRAM: [soroptimistgp](https://instagram.com/soroptimistgp) ..... Sarah Sheppard  
TWITTER: [@soroptimistgp](https://twitter.com/soroptimistgp) ..... Jean Kroll

NEWSLETTER: THE POINTER is on the website and  
is emailed to members ..... Nancy Solak

MEDIA: Newspaper articles, radio PSAs, etc. .... Diana Langlois



Remember to use AMAZON SMILE [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)  
(look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)

## SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY



## Soroptimist Special

Mini Portrait Session \$100

30 minute photo session  
10 high resolution digital images  
Photo Print Release

Book your session today!  
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