



The Pointer

SIGP NOMINATION OF 2020-21 SIGP BOARD...VOTING THIS MONTH

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe will be electing its new slate of officers this month on ZOOM, at our May 13, 2020, 6:30 P.M. General Meeting.

Since we have one officer nominated for each board position, as we have in the past, we will conduct a “show of hands” vote on ZOOM as suggested by SIA.

It is very important for you to attend this meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. The vote will be taken from 6:45—7:00PM. Please come online to vote, even if you are not available to attend the entire meeting.

For details on how to ZOOM, see next page.

For details on the voting process as defined in SIGP’s by-laws, and SIA’s electronic voting guidelines, see page 4.

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.

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

Nominating Committee: *Mary Ellen Burke, Chair, Karrie Blankenship, and Madeline Jeffs Colavito*

May BOARD Meeting via Zoom. WEDNESDAY May 6, 7:00 p.m.

HOW TO ZOOM ON SIGP'S ZOOM ACCOUNT

SIGP purchased a monthly subscription to ZOOM for last month and this month. Our General Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:30PM will include our Officer Elections. If you have never used ZOOM, here are some directions.

Use a laptop or iPad that has a microphone and camera. If you don't own a laptop you can use a smart phone, but you will not be able to see everyone at once. This is a drawback because you will only see who is speaking, instead of everyone attending the meeting.

1. Go on the Internet to **ZOOM.US** to get the app. Download the app. (IT'S FREE!) It will appear on your device as a blue balloon with a white video camera in the center.
2. At the designated meeting time, go to your email and click on the SIGP email notification that will be sent to you the day of the meeting. **Click on the link** to enter the meeting.
3. **If this does not work**, go to Google and search "zoom.us" Click **Join a Meeting** button. Then **enter** the meeting ID and Password provided on the meeting email notification.
4. A message will appear saying **allow video**. Click **Allow**. Your picture will appear on your computer screen along with anyone else who is already on.
5. Another prompt will appear asking you to **allow audio**. Click **Allow**. When you talk everyone will be able to hear you.
6. If you want to schedule any kind of SIGP planning meeting (HT, PI, Mentoring, Book Club, Foodies, or anything else), contact Karrie Blankenship (**karrieb40@gmail.com**) to schedule a meeting day and time.
7. If you want to just socialize with anyone (Soroptimist members, family, friends), you can still schedule a time whenever there is not a Soroptimist meeting. You may want to just chat or play a game like Pictionary. Remember, whoever you are talking to must have the app and a WIFI account.

THREE MORE THINGS:

Since COVID-19 hit, our club has used ZOOM for two book club meetings, one foodie meeting, one general membership meeting, one board meeting, four cocktail/Pictionary games, two meetings for book clubs not associated with SIGP but run by SIGP members, and one member who used it for a chat with her Pinochle Club.

Keeping the club active and connected is important during these difficult times. Many SI Grosse Pointe members are single and live alone. Being able to see a familiar face and enjoy each other's company and conversation is important during our social isolation and distancing mandates.

There is also a **free** ZOOM app you can sign up for yourself instead of using our Club's app. It allows for up to 9 people to meet at a time for under 40 minutes. If you want to schedule a face-to-face meeting with anyone, you can then schedule your own meeting on your own Zoom app.

SIGP DUES ARE DUE JUNE 10, 2020

SIGP dues of **\$125.00** have not been increased for a decade ... not since 2010, and they will not be increased this year either.

Please renew your membership by paying your dues on or before our June General meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

You can pay your dues in one of the following ways:

1. Write a check for \$125.00 to Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe. Mail it or drop it off to Mary Ellen Burke, or Bette Lepouttre, our Treasurers. (DO **NOT** SEND ANYTHING TO OUR OFFICIAL ADDRESS AT GP WAR MEMORIAL)
2. Pay through SQUARE. Call Mary Ellen Burke or Bette Lepouttre and give her your credit card number to charge. SQUARE fees raise the cost by \$5 to \$130.
3. Pay through PayPal online. You will be charged \$130 by grossepointesoroptimist account. Like SQUARE, the price is higher due to PayPal's fee.

Mary Ellen Burke, 2037 Shorepointe Lane, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, 313-399-8934

Bette Lepouttre, 191 Ridgemont Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, 586-557-3287

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

The SIGP board has decided to compile and maintain an emergency contact list for members. This list will be available at all SIGP meetings, events and activities to be used in case a situation occurs in which a member's emergency contact person should be notified. The list will not be published as part of the directory.

If you choose to participate, please email the name and phone number of your emergency contact or contacts to:

ellenchapin@sbcglobal.net

or text to 313 409 0549.

Thank you.

Ellen Chapin

MAY — HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Mary Bryk, May 7

Katherine Thomas, May 8

Mary Clare Toffanetti, May 8

Amanda Be, May 10

Ross Braun May 25



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising seems to be a HOT topic. As assistant treasurer, I spoke at both the last Board and General meetings via ZOOM concerning SIGP's fundraising responsibility.

At both meetings I asked everyone to THINK about the future once we're beyond COVID-19. Two specific items were a virtual/second-hand sale and possible celebration of SIGP's 65th Anniversary in 2021. NOTHING was finalized nor any commitments made.

Be well, be safe, *Bette Lepouttre*

Next SIGP Board Meeting WEDNESDAY, May 6, 7 p.m. 2020, online via ZOOM.

POSITIVE IMAGES UPDATE

Compiled by Diana Langlois

Currently staff and clients at Positive Images (P.I.) are doing well. No illnesses to report. The number of women in the E. Grand Blvd. house is down, but the Coplin residence is full. Thank you to members who donated supplies to P.I. during the past month. Every little bit helps during these challenging times. Donations in the past week:

- **Donated by Phomale**, Jenelle Liefief, President: 100 masks for adults; 25 masks for children; 400 baby diapers baby wipes; 50 toothbrushes; 24 individual size hand sanitizers; 4 gallons of bulk sanitizer for refills
- **Donated by Mary Ellen Burke's quilting guild**: 39 adult masks
- **Dispersed by Willie Brooks**, Wayne County Coordinator: 100 face shields and masks
- There is a \$10,000 City of Detroit Emergency Need Grant available for nonprofits.
- Phase I of the roof repair on the E. Warren office has been completed. Next step: Eradicating the building's mold.

F.Y.I. ELECTION PROCEDURES

SIGP By-laws Section 2. Election Procedure

The election shall be held at the May business meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be read again. Additional nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The election shall be by secret ballot if there are two or more nominees for any office. Votes will be tallied by two outgoing Board members, or, in the event all Board members are continuing in office, by the two directors. Winners will be announced without the vote tally being disclosed.

Soroptimist International of Americas (SIA) has issued guidance titled, *Voting by Electronic Methods During the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency*

Video conferencing is an effective way to hold virtual meetings when a group cannot meet in person. One video conferencing platform is Zoom; it is available in all countries of SIA with the exception of Venezuela. Other video conferencing platforms include Go-To-Meeting and Google's Google Hangouts. Voting during a video conference must be handled with care. For most clubs, all members are usually entitled to vote. If your club normally does a voice vote or a show of hands for voting, you may be able to replicate this in a video conference meeting. But if ballot secrecy is required, you will need to use an electronic voting platform.

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this month at our May 13, 2020, 6:30 P.M. ZOOM General Meeting.

WE NEED YOUR VOTE TO MEET OUR QUORUM TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

MIDWESTERN REGION NOTES

Compiled by SIGP past president and membership chair of the Midwestern Region Roseanne Horne

We're all preparing for the 2020-2021 club year, and our SIA team has been considering the potential impact of COVID-19 on our organization's membership.



Right now, clubs in many parts of the world are not able to hold in-person meetings and events to deliver the traditional engagement opportunities offered by Soroptimist membership. Members may be facing difficult financial decisions in their household budgets, and this will include whether or not they renew their membership this year. These are just a couple of the considerations SIA has accounted for in projecting a significant decline in membership for 2020-2021.

At the same time, Soroptimists everywhere are connecting virtually in creative ways and carrying on the friendship and fellowship that is so valuable to our members. And our mission is as urgent as ever. We know that the women and girls we serve are vulnerable in this public health crisis, and our members – as well as former members of Soroptimist – **are likely feeling a call to service.**

We are confident in the strength of our organization's mission, and the power of the global connections among Soroptimist members. We will build on these strengths as we seek to bolster our membership to keep Soroptimist strong in 2020-2021 and beyond. **We need as many members as we can to reach our next big goal.**

To that end, SIA staff is preparing a win-back membership campaign. They will be managing this campaign from headquarters and contacting recently lapsed members to directly ask them to **consider re-joining SIA as we prepare for the new club year.** If you know any former members, reach out to them! Let them know what service projects our club is involved with, invite them to our next ZOOM meeting or in-person meeting when it is allowed. There are women out there who want to get involved, support a cause, or make a difference. Give them a place to do all of that ... as a Soroptimist! Let's not let COVID-19 get us down! Let's stay connected and keep our membership up!

**Please see how to pay your
membership dues on page three.**

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

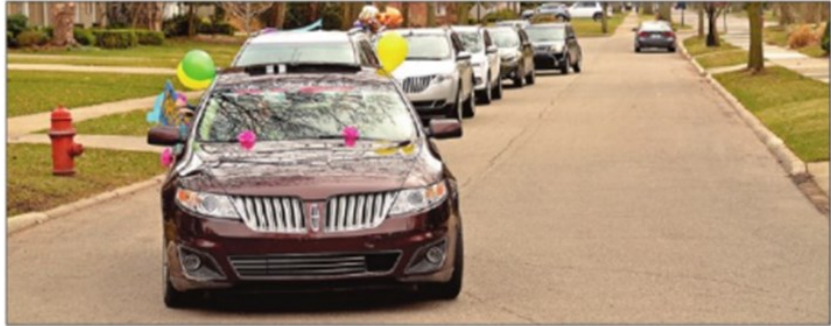
Director

Marya Malkovich Rosenthal

Director

Hospitality Chair

MEMBER NEWS!



Surprise birthday parade



Diane Kashuba's 75th birthday was March 26, but she couldn't go out to celebrate due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. Much to her surprise, her friends and family organized a parade, lining up in decorated cars and driving down Stephens, her street in Grosse Pointe Farms, honking and waving. Kashuba said she was surprised and moved by the gesture. As she waved at carloads of friends and family, she said, "I feel like the queen."

Above, the surprise registers on Diane Kashuba's face when she realizes why cars are coming down her street. Right, Mary Cantwell wishes Diane Kashuba a happy birthday.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Courtesy of the Grosse Pointe News

UPDATE ON MYRA

Myra Golden is at home now. While her son has indicated they are all set with food, he did mention that Myra enjoys receiving cards from Soroptimist members. So, rather than send a group card, I was hoping each of you might take a few minutes of your time to send a note or card to Myra to cheer her up and to let her know how much we miss her. Her address is: 16475 Stricker, Eastpointe, MI 48021. Thanks! *Marya Rosenthal, Hospitality Chair*

“WE ARE RESILIENT.”

Darcy Merritt, Governor, Midwestern Region

Greetings to all of you,

In a million years I would not have thought this would be how my Installation speech would go. I hope I'm the only Governor that will ever have to go into their biennium this way. If there is anything that I know about Soroptimist, it is that we are resilient. As Soroptimist members and Americans we will conquer this Global Pandemic and come out stronger.

As some of you may know, my platform for the 2020-2022 biennium is *Educate to Empower*. I believe education is the way to empower women. When we educate a woman we lift her up and that allows her to lift up her children and her community.

I know all our clubs did amazing things during Governor Kris Armstrong's biennium, and I'm confident we will continue to raise women up through our dream programs and by the work we do in our communities. I understand we will have challenges due to so many fundraisers being canceled or rescheduled and I have no doubt we will still step up to help women and girls.

One of my goals during my biennium is to raise women up through education in our communities and globally. I will lead with compassion and respect and will always listen to your ideas or concerns. We are all in this together and it will take each and every one of us doing Soroptimist to empower women and girls. I am so proud to be a Soroptimist and to be your Governor for the 2020-2022 biennium.

I know it was disappointing that we could not gather together for spring conference this year and to see old friends and to meet new ones, but we will all gather in Fond du lac next year and make it the best spring conference yet. We will appreciate the hugs and smiles so much more.

I look forward to being your Governor and I can assure you that I don't take lightly that I am representing the Midwestern Region. I thank you for your support and I look forward to when we can gather again and share those smiles and hugs. Hope to see you all soon.

All the Best

Darcy Merritt, Governor - Midwestern Region

READ WHAT SOROPTIMIST ARE DOING IN MANCHESTER, ENGLAND!

While we are all at home with time on our hands, here is some interesting news from across the pond.

Our friendship link with SI of Manchester has shared its newsletter with. Please take a few moments to catch up with our friends overseas.

Karrie Blankenship, Friendship Link Chair

[To see SI Manchester's newsletter, click here.](#)



People wearing masks during the 1918 pandemic.

GENERATION
EQUALITY



Gender equality matters in COVID-19 response



The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health issue. It is a profound shock to our societies and economies, and women are at the heart of care and response efforts underway.

As frontline responders, health professionals, community volunteers, transport and logistics managers, scientists and more, women are making critical contributions to address the outbreak every day.

During crises, women are hit harder. Globally, women make up 70 per cent of workers in the health and social sector and women do three times as much unpaid care work as men.



COVID-19 provides us with an opportunity for radical, positive action to redress long-standing inequalities in multiple areas of women's lives.

PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA
UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UN WOMEN

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)
Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)
Soroptimist International (soroptimistinternational.org)
Soroptimist International of the Americas -
(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

WEBSITE: grossepointesoroptimist.net Karrie Blankenship
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/calendar-of-events.html> for calendar

E-MAIL: grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com Anne Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: 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
(look for Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe)

SIGP Member Ads

RENÉE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY



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