Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

The Vision

July 2018 Edition

A message from Governor Kris Armstrong

Welcome to the new biennium!

Challenge yourself to make a difference. Be intentional, be strong, be bold - be a Soroptimist. Those are the words with which I ended my installation speech. I hope that you've accepted that challenge. I also spoke about transformational growth, so let's explore what that means.

As your club starts planning for the next two years, please pause, self-scout and level set. This means getting all of your members on the same page so that you all have the same basic understanding of your club's current status. Review your by-laws, strategic plan and budget. What works and what doesn't? In other words, get your ducks in a row. Do you have a strategic plan? Yes, you should have one. Check out the region's new 2018-2022 strategic plan at www.simwr.org for inspiration.

Do the projects/awards you fund or the hands-on projects you work on, fit our mission of improving the lives of women and girls? If they do not, then you need to make the decision to stop supporting them. Or in the alternative, is there a way to tweak it so that it fits the mission? It's hard, I know it's hard. My own club has been through that process and it's not easy, but it must be done.

What about fundraising? Does your club make enough money to fund your projects and educational awards? If so, great! If not, do you have any ideas on how to achieve funding requirements? Ask for help if you need it.

How do you recruit members? Does your club hold a formal membership event? Does it work? If not, can it be tweaked? Or maybe you should just stop doing it. If you don't have one, maybe consider trying it. I can't tell you what should work or not work for your club - put your heads together and do what makes sense. Engage your District Director and Secretary for help. There are many good ideas to be found in the membership section of www.soroptimist.org - so please avail yourself of this information.

Be creative, innovative and unleash disruption! Disruption is a buzzword that's been around the business world for a number of years. Webster's defines disrupt as: to interrupt the normal course or unity of… Don't be afraid of making changes. If a change doesn't work it doesn't mean that you've failed, it just means that it didn't work. Move along and try something else.

In all things, the region board and committees are here to help you. If you have a question, ask. If you want to share a best practice - share it! If you want to talk about your ideas, we are here to listen. Team up with other clubs to bounce ideas. Communication will be the key to our success.

On that note, I want to share with you some thoughts on the culture of our region - our team. I shared the following (see page 2)with the incoming board and want to share with all of you as well. This documents what values mean to us, the behaviors we expect all members to demonstrate, as well as the kinds of behaviors we will not support. These are the behaviors we have identified that create and reinforce the culture and climate that we aspire to attain.

Kris Armstrong
Governor 2018-2020
Midwestern Region USA

2018 July Dates to Remember

- SIA 45th BIENNIAL CONVENTION- JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 2018 YOKOHAMA, JAPAN
- Districts I & III Fall Meeting October 5 & 6, 2018 Hilton Garden Inn • Benton Harbor, MI
- Districts II & IV Fall Meeting October 12 & 13, 2018 Holiday Inn & Suites • Lima, OH

Thoughts from Governor Kris Armstrong

MWR Board 2018-2020 Culture

Treating our team as family. **What does "treating our team as family" mean?** We are nice to one another, respect each other, have fun together, embrace our differences, seek and appreciate each other's opinion, and are honest with each other in an effort to help us improve. Every member is entitled to their opinion, but nobody should have an entitled opinion – no exceptions. A good team/family gets a lot done while enjoying working together towards a common goal. We want everyone to succeed.

What we expect:

- Treat others with respect and embrace our differences (Golden Rule)
- Listen to one another (don't just hear)
- Get to know others
- Appreciate and value others' opinion
- Be candid with courtesy
- Make decisions based on what's best for the team

What we won't support

- Being defensive
- Hurtful words or tone
- Making others feel isolated
- Punishing failure

Valuing collaboration over consensus. **What does "valuing collaboration over consensus" mean?** Collaboration often leads to more ideas and, ultimately, a better solution. On our board, collaboration is a means to gather ideas and make a decision to take action. Our time is better spent working on and delivering results, not vetting options and decisions past everyone. In the time it would take to get consensus on a decision, we can implement the decision and validate whether or not it will work. We strive to prevent swirl, and we support decisions as a team.

What we expect:

- Actively listen and provide feedback
- Be open to - and build upon - others' ideas
- Gather input from others...but not from everyone
- Look past others' positions when making a decision
- Be empowered (and comfortable) making a decision with out 100% agreement
- Consensus doesn't always work in a crisis, you must have the courage to move forward
- Present a unified front as a team

What we won't support:

- Not listening to others' ideas and/or feedback
- Trying to get unanimous agreement before taking action
- Always conceding/never conceding
- Pouting or complaining if you don't get your way

We will embrace agility with constant improvement. **What does Agility with constant improvement mean?** We will respond quickly to meet changing needs. This allows us to react to changes in priority and continually improve.

What we expect:

- Be flexible
- Re-prioritize when appropriate
- Learn from our failures
- Make improvements that provide value
- Ask "Why" questions with the intent to improve

What we won't support

- Being so set in the idea that you can't improve/change
- Settling or accepting things the way they are
- Limit yourself by existing boundaries

Starting simple, always learning then adjusting. **What does "starting simple, always learning, and then adjusting" mean?** We begin working on solutions early, learn from the initial results, and build iteratively upon that foundation. We are not afraid to try because we can learn from our failures. This value also allows and encourages us to be responsive to members' needs. We will lead through service.

What we expect:

- Fix the things that are broken (if necessary)
- Try something different, and lead with data
- Exhibit a willingness to fail
- Try it and see what happens
- Encourage and support innovation
- Make efficient, risk informed decisions

What we won't support

- Allowing "scope creep" without adjustment
- Being overly critical of simple ideas
- Overreacting to feedback
- Swirling

SI Indianapolis

On May 9, 2018 SI Indianapolis Metro hosted a Plant Nite fundraiser at Two Deep Brewery. Attendees were instructed how to create a tabletop succulent planter while they learned more about our Club. It was a great success with 28 attendees and over $400 raised!

SI Mount Vernon and Knox County

A photo from our Friendship Dinner

SI Monroe

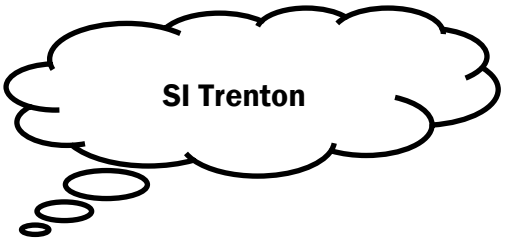
THE LAUREL SOCIETY 2018

What is the Laurel Society? It is SIA's prestigious recognition program for $1,000 and above donors. Since 1994 more than 6,000 Laurel Society Members have contributed $10 million through the Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It Award, or/ and Unrestricted Program Awards which help fund all SIA Club Grants, the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence, and others.

What is the change in the Laurel Society? The 2015 change is that a donation to any of these awards are credited to the overall Laurel Society which will help fund all SIA programs including Soroptimist Club Grants, the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence, and others.

Result for SIA Members Donors may contribute gifts to any of the three funds (Live Your Dream Awards, Dream it Be it Award, Unrestricted Support or Domestic Recovery Fund, etc.) and will be able to say, "I made a donation to fund the Live Your Dream Awards and am recognized in the Laurel Society for my gift." A monthly gift can still be designated for a specific fund which can be selected from a drop down menu on the SIA website.

SIGP Laurel Society Blanket squares: $10 per square of a blanket which has 100 squares and makes a contribution when $1000 is reached. The owner of the winning square becomes a Laurel Society member. Keep this in mind for a Mother's Day or other holiday. Next time we meet you may purchase a square which is clearly marked with a white tag on which you may write whatever you want.



SI of Trenton Area Installation Banquet

Prior to the start of the installation banquet, Trenton Soroptimists gathered at a local funeral home to say goodbye to one of our gems, **Gwen Brannick**, a 42-year member. She was the keeper of our birthday and pin fines "pig." Gwen had a heart of gold, a wicked wit, and kept us all amused. We will miss her terribly.

Former Midwestern Region Governor Terry Morreau inducted the following new members: Taylor Alpert (Gini's Lebold's granddaughter), Ann Peraino, Betty Peraino (Ann's mother-in-law), Barbara Saunders, and Paetrah Thompson (President Karen's Collin's daughter-in-law-to-be).

Terry also installed the following women to their new office positions: President Karen Collins, Vice-president Abby Premoe, Treasurer Chris Speedie, Secretary Brigette Rizzuto, Directors Sarah Hill and Cathy Infantado, and new office, Vice-president of Resources Nancy Nagle.

2017 President Linda Crisi presented a five-year membership milestone pin to Kim Stoddart and to Carol Oakley (returning member), and bestowed a 35 -year membership milestone pin to Gini Lebold.

Linda distributed several perfect attendance awards, and then announced our Rookie of the Year, Sarah Hill and Key Member of the Year, Abby Premoe.

Gini's Lebold received her 35 Year

Gwen Brannick, a 42-year member.

New members (left to right): Ann Peraino, Betty Peraino, Taylor Alpert, Paetrah Thompson. Not present: Barbara Saunders.

Officers and Board (left to right): Treasurer Chris Speedie, Director Cathy Infantado, Secretary Brigette Rizzuto, Director Sarah Hill, Vice-president Abby Premoe, President Karen Collins, Vice-president of resources Nancy Nagle.

SI Monroe

SOAP is being recognized by Polaris!!!

I wanted to let you know that beyond the photo, the SOAP campaign will be featured in the report as an innovative victim support and identification initiative targeted to the hotel industry. Below is the excerpt from the report. The full report is launching on July 12th. In addition to training staff, many hotels are making efforts to post the National Hotline number on their property, both so victims are aware of the option to seek help and guests know there is an avenue to report suspicious behavior. Some cities have enacted legislation mandating the posting of the National Hotline number at all hotel properties. Other hotel-centered identification efforts are being spearheaded by anti-trafficking organizations on local and national scales. Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P.) is a survivor-led organization that, via volunteers, distributes bars of soap clad with the National Hotline number on the wrapping to high-risk hotels and motels. To date, S.O.A.P has distributed nearly one million bars of soap nationwide, and the Hotline has received many trafficking-related calls from survivors and hotel staff as a result of the innovative campaign to help inform trafficking victims of their options to seek help in a way that won't tip of their traffickers.

Trooper Tressa Duffin
Michigan State Police
Monroe Post #14

SI Grosse Pointe

Planning for the **Stop Traffic 5K** on September 29, 2018 continues. The committee will be sending the electronic version of the official flyer to the chapter in early July. We hope you will share it in electronic and hard copy forms with those who might be interested. Hard copies will also be provided at the July meeting. A sponsorship committee is now forming. Carolyn Barth and Roseanne Horne have graciously offered to take the helm of that subcommittee and would love others to join them. The first meeting about sponsorship will be July 18th and 6:00 pm. The location has yet to be determined, but feel free to reach out to Roseanne, Carolyn, or Carrie Petrocelli for more details. Aside from sponsorship, we are working on a DJ, host, goody bags, marketing timeline and much more! The recruitment of anti-HT organizations to be exhibitors at our expo post-race is also underway. Stay tuned. It is going to be a great day of fun, facts, and fundraising!

Remember that those interested can now register online by visiting grossepointesoroptimist.org and clicking the 5K Walk/Run tab. The next meeting of the Anti-HT/5K planning committee will be July 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm (immediately following the sponsorship subcommittee meeting). As previously mentioned, the location is to be determined, but we will know by the July member meeting. If you have any additional questions in the meantime, feel free to contact Carrie Petrocelli or Sara Shepherd.

carreebeth@yahoo.com
sshepp01@gmail.com

SI Zanesville

12th Annual Soroptimist Women's Golf Outing 4 Woman Scramble

JULY 14, 2018

Place: Green Valley Golf Course, *4420 Dresden Road, Zanesville*
Time: 9:00 am Registration & Social Time, 9:30 am Shotgun Start
Entry Fee: $35 per person/$140 per team

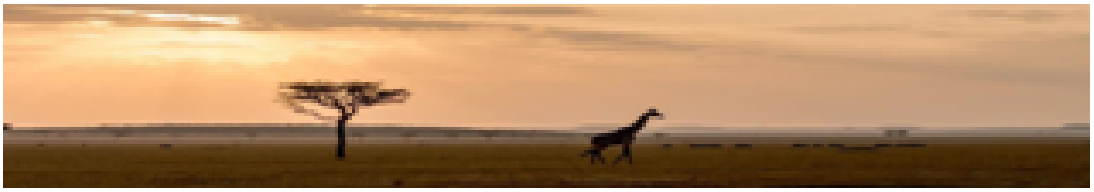
Cart Rental not included, payable at the Clubhouse

Lunch and Snacks Will Be Served

To Register: Contact Steve at the Golf Course (740) 452-7105
or Taffy Tippett (740) 454-1052
Deadline to Register: **JULY 1, 2018**

AWARDS

10 skill game prizes- Skins Game- Gross and Net Division
Best Safari Dressed Team
Ball Dump Tickets $10 each- Mulligans $5 for two
All Proceeds Benefit Soroptimist Awards & Community Projects



This year's theme is:
SAFARI SISTERS

SI Greater Detroit

SI Flat Rock

Soroptimist of the Flat Rock Area

Invites You to a **Baby Shower** Benefiting

Guiding Hand Pregnancy Refuge Center

16694 Road, Taylor, MI 48180

Place: **Historic Smith Flat Rock Hotel**
25200 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock, MI 48134
(Behind the Flat Rock Library)

Date: **Sunday, July 22, 2018**
Time: 2pm to 4pm

Items That Are Most Needed -

Size 5 Diapers

New or Gently Used (Clean) Clothing in Sizes Newborn to 6T for Boy/Girl (*Boys Clothes in Size 12-18 Months* Especially Needed as well as *Newborn Gowns & Toddler Socks*)

Other Items that are also needed this year: Baby Wipes, Crib Sheets, Pacifier Clips and Bottle Brushes,

(Please Bring Unwrapped Gifts)

Please Call Mary Dale at 734.782.4691 for a Reservation by July 9, 2017

SI Middletown

Soroptimist International of Middletown has "adopted" The Center of Hope for Women homeless shelter for a couple years. Members bring specified items to our monthly meetings. We have donated women's hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, sweatpants, hoodies, shoes, flip flops, blankets, sheets, dish towels and dishcloths, bath towels and wash cloths, magazines and books. Our latest project is pillows. We have purchased and provided 200 pillows so each woman and child can take her pillow with her when she moves out. The pillows are stamped with the Soroptimist logo and the words "Sweet Dreams from Middletown Soroptimists.

SI Canton/Stark County

On June 7 in conjunction with the Dream It, Be It Camp will provide a volunteer opportunity with Days for Girls.

Start collecting now!!!! The next big DFG event will be an underwear drive in August. We are hoping to make the most of the back to school sales and get at least a years supply of underwear for the local chapter. Just in case you find any great deals in the meantime, they are looking for girls underwear in size 12, 14, and 16. Dark prints or colors are preferred and no animals, bugs, faces or symbols, please.

On June 16th GOTR, North Canton Library, and SI Canton Stark County hosts The Illusionists! This documentary screening exploring the multibillion dollar industries that saturate our lives with images of unattainable beauty. After the film, local body-positive advocate and wellness professional, Charity Stewart, will lead a discussion challenging us to consider where our ideas about body image come from and inspiring us to move past current social norms regarding physical size and appearance. 1p-4p at the North Canton Library seating is limited.

More Info: https://www.facebook.com/events/2040566119497273/

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

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SI Bloomington Normal

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SI Monroe County

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SI Kenton Hardin Co

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

Editor for The Vision
Karrie Blankenship
SI Grosse Pointe
karrieb40@gmail.com

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board

Back row: Lata Shastri , Christine Shearer, Mary Pilon, Audrey Jarvey, Susan Frankel, Barb Flory, Jenny Prater, Abby Bouton

Front Row: Darcy Merritt , Kris Armstrong , Connie Gindt , Missie Austin

Connections for the 2018—2020 Midwestern Board

Emails Contacts

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

Governor Elect -**Darcy Merritt** - (dmerritt81@hotmail.com)

Secretary - **Missie Austin** - (missieaustin@gmail.com)

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

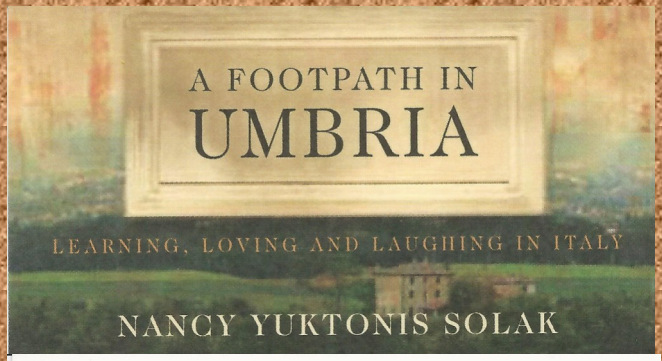
Bulletin Board

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

Nancy Yuktonis Solak

Nonfiction Editor:
memoir, travel, medical, health, history, essay, technical & how-to

E-mail: solaksinitaly@yahoo.com
Website: www.areluctanttraveler.net

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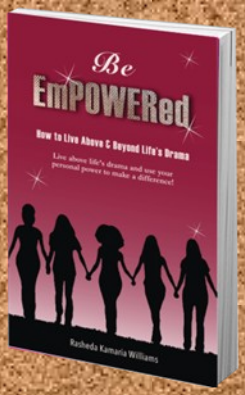

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Jane M. Evola
President

586-263-5858
fax: 866-523-7533
direct: 586-322-2394
jane@jme-financial.com

SI Grosse Pointe, MI

Sarah Sheppard

313-804-4100
sshepp01@gmail.com

Writer, Book Editor, Copy Editor, Ghostwriter, Writing Instructor

SI Grosse Pointe, MI

Agillence
Optimization Company

KERRI GREEN
Manager
Supply Chain Services

Office: 1.248.731.4905
Cell: 1.586.651.9222
kerri.green@agillence.net

AGILLENCE, INC.
26555 Evergreen Road, Suite 1215
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Bulletin Board

SI Canton/Stark County, OH

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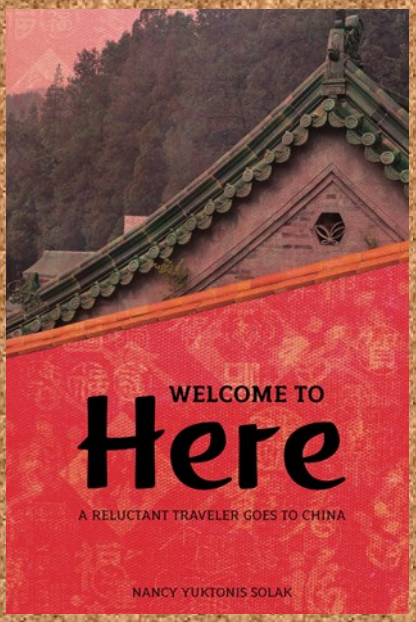
Need help writing your Soroptimist Club Grant?

For $150, Christine Shearer can help with writing your club grant. For more information, contact Christine at:

FowlerArtistic@gmail.com or 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 lasted 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

Lakeside Mall

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

Genesee Valley Center

55.27 miles away
3315 S Linden Rd,
Space # 550
Flint, MI 48507
810-720-1104

Birch Run Premium Outlets

64.91 miles away
12240 S. Beyer Rd,,
Space # F300
Birch Run, MI 48415
989-624-9911

Spring Meadows

80.54 miles away
1494 Spring Meadows Dr.,
Space #D-110