Soroptimist International Midwestern Region





Governor's Message for December 2018 Edition of The Vision



Our award season is in full swing, clubs should be judging their Live Your Dream applications and sending their winner on

to their District Director for further judging. Please see LYD Chair, Jody Clark's, comments here in this issue of the Vision and on our FaceBook page. If you're not following our FaceBook page, you totally should... You should also be receiving applications for the Wagner Award, which are due to clubs by January 15th. If your club has not received an application by the first of the year, please contact your Director or Wagner Award Chair, Denise Wartgow. And that's it from me this month saving space for Jody's remarks. Happy Holidays!

Kris Armstrong Midwestern Region Governor







2018 Dates to Remember

- 12/2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 12/10 Human Rights Day -President's Appeal
- 2020 SIA Convention -July 22-25 - Grand Hyatt Hotel, Bellevue, WA
- 2021 Soroptimist 100th anniversary Celebration. October 1 -3, 2021 in San Francisco, CA at Fairmont San Francisco Hotel. Site of first meeting to establish what is known as Soroptimist International.

SI DAYTON

The CORY (Community Outreach to Runaway Youth) Program distributes missing children's posters to hotels, motels, restaurants and other business throughout the Miami Valley. Each poster identifies eight missing teens. The last distribution began in late September and five of the eight teens have been found! The club works directly with Tonya Folks, the Montgomery County, Ohio sheriff's Human Trafficking Liaison to identify the at-risk teens and develop the poster. She is getting calls from all over the U.S. about the CORY program. She even received a call from Canada inquiring what we are doing. This is making a difference and we thank all those involved.



What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking generates many billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

If you know someone who needs help call the number below...

1 (888) 373-7888

National Human Trafficking Hotline

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO") Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week

Languages: English, Spanish and 200 more languages

Website: humantraffickinghotline.org

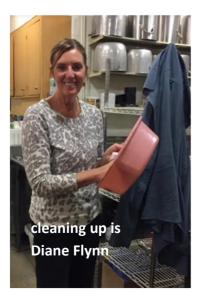
SI FLAT ROCK

Soroptimists of the Flat Rock Area (SIFRA) helped out at First United Methodist Church in Flat Rock when the church hosted a group from ChristNet during the week of October 28th to November 4th. ChristNet is a rotating shelter program providing meals and overnight accommodation for a group of 30 homeless people.

SIFRA provided a delicious meal of ham, carrots, salad, baked spaghetti and more, as well as a variety of desserts and beverages.



Pictured above are from left: Serving are: Ann Honaker, Holly Johnson, Joe Mead (husband of member Jo-Ann) and Cindy Wylonis



SI MIDDLETOWN

SI Middletown supports the Hope House Center for Women and Children regularly. We donate items monthly, everything from shampoo to sheets and towels and clothing. We have donated over 200 pillows so the women and children can take their pillows with them when they leave the center. This year we will also be serving dinners periodically.



The photo above was taken at the October dinner where Soroptimists served over 40 women, children, and staff.

SI MONROE



SIA Trade Mark

Don't Forget the Trademark Symbol!

Did you know that the Soroptimist "S" logo is a registered trademark? In fact, all of SIA's major logos—for LiveYourDream.org, the Live Your Dream Awards, and Dream It, Be It—are all registered trademarks. This means they contain the ® symbol. All of the logos available for download on the SIA website now contain the registered trademark symbol. As your club transitions from the emblem to the "S" logo (by December 31, 2019), please be sure to use the proper trademarked Soroptimist logos on all your publicity materials, flags and banners moving forward! For more information, check out the Policy for Use of SIA Registered Marks.



Trade Mark Symbol

SI CHICAGO

Soroptimist are Impact Partners with Days for Girls

How do the President's Appeal funds make an Impact for Girls?

Soroptimists are part of Days for Girls Ambassador's Circle, donating \$50,000 +.



Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

Part of the 2015-2017 Soroptimist President's Appeal funds were used in Nepal to start micro-enterprises in five Nepali villages. Six women per village were trained to make Days for Girls hygiene kits and 1,000 girls per village were provided with a day of education and a kit so they could share the information they learned about having your period.

This President's Appeal Project reached 5,000 girls and 30 micro-enterprise women.

Midwestern Region clubs continue to collect supplies and to make *Days for Girls* Hygiene Kits that are distributed around the world.

Recently SI Chicago partnered with the Chicago Days for Girls Chapter to assist with the making of shields, pads and drawstring bags. With the generosity of the region clubs who brought donation items for the kits, SI Chicago members added additional items and completed 300 kits that will be distributed to women and girls in refugee camps, including refugees from Syria and Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in

Burma.



SI GREATER DETROIT

The holiday season is the ideal time to reaffirm our commitment to the work of Soroptimists. During a season known for fellowship and generosity, economic hardship and social alienation, particularly, can intensify for disadvantaged and at-risk women and girls. Chartered in January 2018, Soroptimist International of Greater Detroit (SIGD) has moved full-steam ahead in its drive to broaden membership and expand its visibility in the community.

Following its first meet-and-greet in September, the Greater Detroit Club participated in two educational events: the 2018 Pathways to Success Educational Expo on October 20, produced by the Educational Ministry of the New Providence Baptist Church (and including a gift card raffle), and the Developing K.I.D.S. Youth Summit at Wayne County Community College District on November 10th. SIGD members Valeon Waller (president) Kristie Bonner (treasurer), Priscilla Wallace (SIGD's Live Your Dream Award chair) and Valaurian Carter (secretary) distributed information packets to potential award candidates, familiarizing them with the online application portal, and answered questions about the club and SIA. Both engagements helped increase access to the award process while encouraging greater community awareness of SIA.

The Greater Detroit Club will evaluate 12 eligible Live Your Dream Award candidates on December 15, and will honor its first LYD Award recipient on March 9, 2019 (details pending).



pictured Treasurer, Kristie Bonner







SI FLAT ROCK

The 3rd Annual Road Rally for the Cure fundraiser sponsored by Soroptimist International of the Flat Rock Area took place on Saturday, October 27 at the Brownstown Recreation Center. The event benefitted "Women Celebrating Life" and honored the life of SIFRA's late member Sondra Robin. Costumed, excited groups were checked in and the rally began at 3:30, with the teams driving around the area finding clues, taking pictures of them and texting them to the judges.

After the rally, participants returned to the Rec Center for pizza, salad, dessert and soft drinks with a cash bar, after which winners of the rally, 50-50 drawing and basket raffles were announced. The winning team was "Save Second Base", consisting of Jessica Taylor, Zahraa Bouss, Shawn Range and Kari Grunwald.

It was a win-win event with contestants and SIFRA members having a delightful afternoon and "Women Celebrating Life" receiving monies.



Pictured are the winning team members:
Jessica Taylor, ZahraaBouss, Shawn Range and Kari Grunwald.

SI INDY METRO

Soroptimist International of Indy Metro held our biannual Designer Hand Bag Bingo Fundraiser on November 3, 2018 at Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center. It was a great success! We sold over 120 tickets and had 37 raffle baskets. We raised roughly just over \$6,000 net which is a 49% increase from 2016! We received great feedback from members and attendees that will make our next bingo even better.





Hello Soroptimist Sisters, as you read this our Live Your Dream deadline of November 15th has passed. I hope that you found the new online application process easy and user friendly! Now, to the clubs that did not have applicants, we will be working diligently to find you an applicant. Many clubs throughout the Midwestern Region had several applicants, so they are able share with other clubs. Team Work, Makes the Dream Work! We want 100% club participation! The Live Your Dream portals are now closed, however, club LYD Chairs will have access to the portals until March.

The applications are in, now its time to select a recipient! As you receive applications, review each one, checking to make sure it is complete and that the applicant is eligible. Anyone who has submitted an application that does not meet each of the eligibility requirements should not be included in the judging. If you receive an incomplete application, contact the applicant about receiving the remaining information.

Check the following:

- Each question is answered.
- The application is signed.
- The applicant is a female with primary financial responsibility for herself and her dependents.
- The applicant demonstrates financial need.
- The applicant has been accepted or is enrolled and will still be attending an undergraduate degree or a vocational skills training program.
- The applicant does not hold a graduate degree.

Judges should be selected from outside the Soroptimist membership. This will provide an opportunity for judges to become community advocates for the program. Contact the women's groups, charitable organizations, and educational institutions that helped you to recruit applicants to ask them to serve as judges. Customize and use the sample judges letter to help recruit judges. Appoint three to five judges to evaluate all qualifying applications.

Once you have selected a recipient, it is important to alert not only her, but all other applicants as well. It is important to applicants to be notified of the outcome of the judging. Furthermore, it is important to the reputation of the club and the organization that all applicants are contacted. Check out the sample recipient letter and the sample non-recipient letter for assistance! You may also wish to call your recipient — hearing the excitement in her voice is an extremely gratifying experience!

NOTE: To help ensure the confidentiality of the applicants, ask the judges to delete the emails including the attachments after the judging is completed.

You've selected and honored your Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards recipient, but the program isn't over just yet. Now it's time to share your success!

In order for your club's participation in the Live Your Dream Awards to be recognized and for your club recipient to be eligible for further awards, your club must report your participation to the region.

The deadline for clubs to submit their winner to their Director is 12/15. The DDs then submit the District winner to MWR by 1/15.

Lastly, **THANK YOU TO ALL**, for your hard work and dedication to making Dreams Come True for these deserving women across the Midwestern Region! You are making a difference in so many lives!

Jody Clark Midwestern Region LYD Chair Page 8 MEMBERSHIP The Vision

SI MILWAUKEE

Cindy Price Views SI Milwaukee as a Path to Helping Others

Cindy Price has been hearing about the pluses of Soroptimist for a long time. She is, after all, sisterin-law of SI Milwaukee President Monica Phillip.

the club's most senior member and probably its most enthusiastic.

Today she can address Monica as "my fellow Soroptimist."

Cynthia, or "Cindy" as she prefers, has opted for membership because she wants to spend some of

her time volunteering for



Cindy Price

girls and women, the exact mission of Soroptimists. She is a graduate of Notre Dame High School and spent a good deal of her adult life as a wife of Tom Price for 51 years, stay-at-home mom to Jeff and Michelle, and now grandmother to five.

After the children got a little older she took courses in bookkeeping, typing and other office skills and worked at a variety of part-time jobs. She's also an advocate of learning in retirement.

Music is a passion for Cindy. She recently retired after 18 years with the Crosstown Harmony group of the Sweet Adelines barbershop singers. "I sang baritone. That was the hardest," she said. Now she performs for people in assisted living and nursing homes. She's also comfortable playing the piano, accordion, flute and keyboard.

Spare-time hobbies include golfing ("I'm not good enough to have a handicap."), container gardening and hanging baskets—just flowers—and cooking and baking "I learned a whole lot from Monica's mother." Cindy said.

The Prices enjoy travel and take at least two trips each year. Favorites are Florida and Hawaii, but Cindy was stunned by the beauty of Alaska. She was hesitant to take the inner passage cruise, "because Alaska is so cold," but they were lucky to have very pleasant weather. "I'll never forget how beautiful it was," she said. They also make short jaunts on weekends and take in some of Milwaukee's many ethnic festivals, trying never to miss Irish Fest.

But life hasn't always been sunshine and flowers for Cindy. "I'm a four-time cancer survivor," she said. Her first bout with breast cancer was in 1987, followed by two more go-rounds with breast cancer and one with uterine cancer. "You can bet I keep a close watch on my health," she said. "I have been very lucky."

Now she's ready to take a new direction with Soroptimists. "Monica made me want to try," she said. So far she's happy with her decision. "Everyone is nice," she said.

SI GROSSE POINTE



Robin Crawford and Cara Crawford attended SIGP's November 2018 General Meeting and immediately signed on. Welcome!

"I have a circle of friends that I would never have had in my lifetime. Friends from all over the world, and people that I can bounce idea off of, because they just give you different perspectives on things."

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Soroptimist member

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A Message from the Editor

At the district meetings, Darcy and I announced that we are looking for my replacement for *The Vision* editor. I will be stepping down as the editor once Kris Armstrong's biennium has been completed. While I have enjoyed being the editor, I feel it is time to move aside for others to bring new and fresh ideas to the Midwestern Region newsletter.

Don't be intimidated, it's not as daunting a task as you might think. I have already laid the ground work for "you" and moving forward, it should not be difficult; you might even enjoy it! The best part of being the editor is making your own deadlines, working on the newsletter when it's convenient for you and letting your imagination run wild.

The way I have conducted the newsletter process is not necessarily going work for you and your schedule. I created a template and continue to use the same template each month only changing important dates, times and the articles. Once the newsletter is finished and delivered I start working on the next month's edition. Meaning, I update calendars, delete articles which are longer pertinent to the coming months and cut and paste the articles into the newsletter I was not able to fit in the previous month's edition. Most members send in articles throughout the month, which I have encouraged so I can "work at my leisure" on that month's edition. I also send out a reminder to all the presidents on the 18th of each

month asking her to forward the email to her club members. I usually start receiving articles at this point and by the 28th due date as well. These are my deadlines and work for my schedule and may not work for you.

I chose to produce a monthly newsletter, however, it's not necessary. For me, my process and the fact that most members are familiar with sending articles monthly makes it easier for me. Sending out a newsletter every 3 or 6 months makes for a longer newsletter and a lot more articles to sort through. When you have a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter the Fundraisers have already happened, the Public Awareness news has been replaced with something "newer" and Membership information (new members) are now seasoned members!

These are my opinions, suggestions and processes. Darcy, governor elect, along with "you" will make your own timeline for the newsletter as well as how it's going to be distributed and created. I will be available to lend a helping hand if needed. Please contact me if you're interested in volunteering to become the next editor of *The Vision* in the spring of 2020 (Yikes) at karrieb40@gmail.com or Darcy Merritt at dmerritt81@hotmail.com



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



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Soroptimist International Midwest Region - ($\underline{simwr.org}$)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (soroptimist.org)

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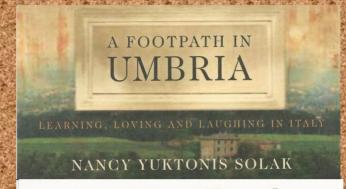
SI Kenton Hardin County OH

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



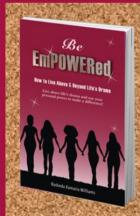
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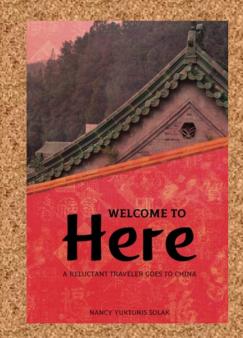
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Need help writing your Soroptimist Club Grant?

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For more information, contact Christine at:

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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

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