



# The Vision



## Governor's Message

### Midwestern Region Governor

Greetings fellow Soroptimists,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying your summer. The Midwestern Region Board held a virtual meeting on July 30th to discuss the survey results for the 2020 District meetings. It was clear from the results that a majority of our members would not feel comfortable attending the in person meetings. As a board we have decided the health and safety of our members is more important.

Unfortunately, we are going to cancel the in person 2020 District Meetings. We are working on a virtual District meeting and will share more information at a later date. I know it is disappointing and I hope you know that it was the last thing we wanted to do. Before you know it, we will be in Fond du lac for the 2021 Spring conference.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Please remember to reach out to your Region board and invite us to your virtual meetings. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and be safe.

Best Regards,

Darcy Merritt  
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Inside  
August 2020  
Edition are:

Articles from  
your  
Midwestern  
Region  
and  
Board  
Members,  
Chairs  
&  
MUCH MORE!



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

## SI of Anderson, IN



### 50 YEAR MEMBER CELEBRATION

In 1970, Paula Bivens was invited to attend a Soroptimist Club meeting by her co-worker Nancy Hawes. At that time, Paula was the Youth Page editor and covered the education beat for the Anderson Herald. After that first meeting, Paula was invited to join Soroptimist membership, which at that time required a separate professional job classification for each woman. Paula served as President at separate times throughout three decades (1973-74; 1977-79; 1989-92; 1999-2001) with membership reaching 68 women in the 1970's. The projects that the club focused on in Paula's early years were to establish a downtown senior citizen center to reach people who did not have transportation to the popular Rangeline Community Center and raising funds by having a holiday style show. One year they hosted a guided tour of Whitehall, a 39-room mansion near Grandview Golf Course. That was the motivational idea for the well-known community event, the Decorator Idea House specifically to raise money for the local American Cancer Society. One year Soroptimist of Anderson gave \$10,000 to the cancer society. In her 50 years of membership in Soroptimist International of Anderson, Paula has been an active and dedicated member of the club. When she was not serving as President, she served on numerous committees and raised funds for all of our club's projects.

## SI of Greater Macomb

SIGM takes the months of July and August off from membership meetings but that does not mean we have not been busy preparing for an exceptional 2020-2021. Newly installed board members have been settling into their roles. President Jessica Finch and Vice President Amanda Melkert took an afternoon to put together care packages for SIGM members. The packages were mailed to each of our members homes as a "Thank you and We are Thinking of You" treat.

Our annual summer picnic will be held on August 22nd at the new home of members Katie Closs and Jackie Wajer. We already know there will be lots of laughter, love and full bellies. The next day, August 23rd, SIGM will man the Non-Profit booth at the New Baltimore Farmers Market. Last year we were able to generate lots of interest in SIGM at the Farmers Market. We hope to do the same this year and perhaps convert interest into MEMBERSHIPS!

We have been using Constant Contact as a tool to keep members updated and engaged during these challenging times. Important information, poll questions, holidays, birthdays and some fun items are all sent in one email. It has cut down on some of the "clutter" we all experience in our email inboxes. Amanda has prepared a great newsletter for the last several months and has one ready to go to our non-members contacts updating them on our activities as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Finch  
President SIGM  
734-991-3143



Congratulations to 8 Midwestern Region Clubs for achieving all three Goals of the 2019-2020 Membership Diamond Campaign! These goals included:

- 1% or better net change

- 14% or more new members

- 15% or fewer dropped members

The following Diamond club winners were recognized on the Virtual SIA Convention website:

SI Cleveland, OH

SI Columbus and Franklin Co., OH

SI Dayton, OH

SI Flat Rock Area, MI

SI Illiana, IL

SI NE Suburban Franklin Co., OH

SI Suburban-Chicago, IL

SI Trenton Area, MI

Congratulations to these clubs for continuing to attract new members and retain current members during this past year.

As we begin the new fiscal year, let's all try to increase membership by inviting friends and family to join our meetings (its even easier to attend meetings on Zoom if your clubs are meeting that way) and staying engaged with current members (make phone calls to members to make sure they are doing okay, find projects you can work on from home).

All the Best for Women,

Roseanne Horne – Midwestern Region Membership Chair

## SI GROSSE POINTE

### **Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe Installs New Board**

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave women the right to vote, the installation of officers included honoring Suffragettes from our past as well as the founders of Soroptimist International. It was held in the Grosse Pointe Shores Park with members following the guidelines of social distancing and masking.

The 2020-2022 SIGP Board Members installed:

Co-Presidents: Ellen Chapin and Marya Malkovich Rosenthal

President Elect: Karrie Blankenship

Vice President: Laura McCourt

Secretary: Maureen Anthony

Assistant Secretary: Diana Langlois

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Burke

Assistant Treasurer: Bette Lepouttre

Director: Madeline Colavito

Director: Nancy Solak

Director: Carolyn Barth

Past President: Aleksa Andjelkovic

Photo id: L to R:

Back row: Aleksa Andjelkovic, Carolyn Barth, Nancy Solak, Madeline Colavito, Bette LePouttre,

Front row: Diana Langlois, Maureen Anthony, Laura McCourt, Karrie Blankenship, Marya Malkovich Rosenthal, Ellen Chapin, Mary Ellen Burke





# SI GROSSE POINTE

## Ann Cunningham Award Presentation

Mary Parsigian, a former Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe member and Midwestern Region Governor, created the Ann Cunningham Award in May 2004 to honor Ann Cunningham's dedicated Soroptimist service. Ann joined SI of Grosse Pointe in 1978 and remained active until she died in 2016. Ann served this club as president, secretary, and director several times as well as managing many club activities. She was our Friendship Link Chair for around 25 years. She loved to dress up as Christmas Carol for our Christmas Party as well as the Positive Images party. She attended district, regional, and federation conferences while she was able. She was a Laurel Society member and was very generous at all Soroptimist levels. She loved to do the installations of officers as well as the induction of new members. She always planned these celebrations with a theme, making them more special.



The Ann Cunningham Award is presented every other year (even numbers) to a SIGP member in June at SIGP Officer Installation. The former awardee and the club president select the recipient. The following criteria is used:

Dedication to SI mission based on service to the club and projects

Helpful to club president, especially if behind the scenes

Active member as measured by attendance at club, district, regional, SIA, and SI meetings and conventions

Service as a Board member, and/or Committee Chair, Event Chair

Contributions to Program: Awards, Dream It Be It, Human Trafficking, Ghana, Grants

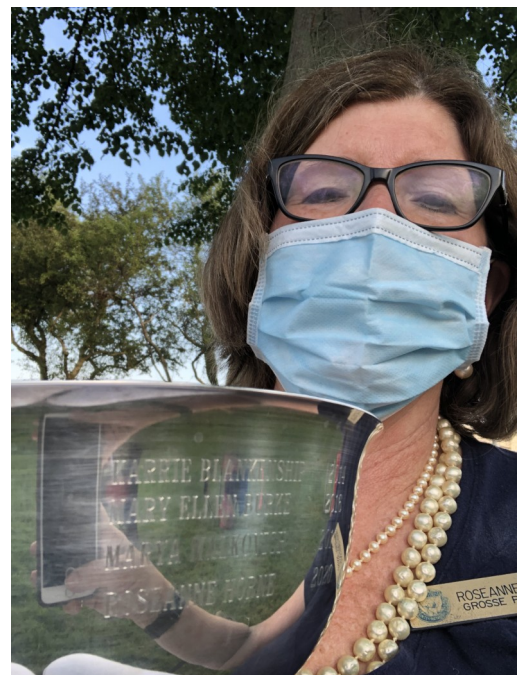
Participation in club service projects including Positive Images activities (tutoring, parenting program, computer lab, Christmas shopping/party, Mother's Day Bags)

Support of Fund Raising activities: Dine Around Town Raffle, Second Hand Sales, Club Crawls, and/or Mini fund raiser events

Contributions to Membership: creating/attending events, recruiting new members, hosting club events or meetings

Contributions to Public Affairs: Articles and/or photographs submitted to Newsletter, website, and/or Facebook

Roseanne Horne was our Ann Cunningham Award recipient this year.



## Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago



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 – President of SI of Suburban Chicago 2020-2021  
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Marie Delos Santos  
 – President Elect of SI of Suburban Chicago 2020-2021  
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Fran Ingram  
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Diane Bobwest  
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## Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago

*Change the world through understanding, kindness, listening, learning, educate others, share resources, and respect others*



## Soroptimist International of Bloomington—Normal

Soroptimists of Bloomington-Normal joined with other community volunteers in July for a workday at “The Farm”. Operated by Catalyst Ministries, “The Farm” is a residential setting opened in 2016 for women escaping sex trafficking in the McLean County area. The third Saturday of each month Soroptimists will work at the site assisting with outdoor projects such as tending gardens and staining fences. A new indoor project is the development of a boutique for the residents to shop for clothing and accessories. On Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> Soroptimists met at the Catalyst Ministry offices for their orientation (see picture in front of offices). After orientation and signing releases SI members were led to the secure location for “The Farm” where they cleaned up a butterfly garden (see picture), stained gate/fencing (see picture), and moved clothing in the boutique (see picture).



SI International of Chicago

## **Soroptimist International of Chicago Summary** **2019-2020**

It has been a short club year but we had helped our community in numerous ways.

**Oct.- Eliminating Sexual Violence -Speaker from Resilience**

12 Bags of gently used bras were donated to the **Free the Girls** micro-enterprise programs

**Nov.- Hosted Days for Girls workshop-** Members provided dinner and assisted in making the items for the kits. Our members donated underwear, washcloths, soap, and fabric.

During the Spring quarantine member JoAnne Klein assembled 100 complete kits.



***Days for Girls*** are no longer using plastic bags instead they made waterproof fabric bags.

**Dec.- Member attended Movie #Female Pleasure sponsored by Soroptimist of Switzerland,** the story of 5 women exploring obstacles that stand in the way of **female** sexuality in the 21st century. Celebrated at our annual Holiday party and Fundraiser.

**March - Presentation of Money Smart program for teens at Taft Public High School, in partnership with Wintrust Bank.** Unfortunately, we were unable to present our **Dream It, Be It program: Overcoming Obstacles in the Workplace,** when the schools closed.

**In Mid-March the world changed with the onset of the corona Virus and quarantine.**

Realizing that the needs of so many were greater than before **SI Chicago doubled our annual donation to Family Rescue, Domestic Violence shelter and outreach programs.**

We also contacted **New Moms, an organization that provides shelter, support and job training for new mothers. 80% of the mothers and children were homeless.**

We donated toiletries, clothing, toys, towels, copy paper, pens and a laptop for a mother taking on-line education courses.



## SI International of Chicago, continued

**SI Chicago was unable to host the annual Education Award dinner. \$1,000 awards were sent to both winners.**

**Live Your Dream recipient Madethe Mdegella**, is the mother of three girls. (Photo)  
Madethe works as an aide in a nursing home and became an essential worker on the front line.



The **Virginia Wagner award recipient, Stephanie Verderame**, is finishing her nursing degree at UIC. (see her note below.)

“Thank you again for this award; I will be using the funds to help pay for my summer course (my last clinical rotation!) Since federal loans don’t cover summer sessions, we always have to pay for them out of pocket and this award will offset that tremendously.”

Each of our programs and projects furthered the Soroptimist vision and mission.  
SI Chicago members have made a significant impact in the lives of Women and Girls  
Locally and Internationally.

### **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS**

**OUR VISION:** Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

**OUR MISSION:** Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

## Soroptimist International of SI-MWR Fundraising Team



### **SI-MWR Fundraising Team-Building In Progress!**

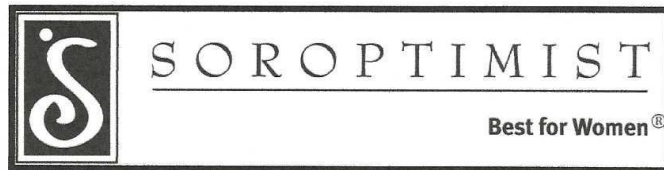
**Are you interested in being a part of the SI-MWR Fundraising Team? This Team will focus on obligations outlined by SIA as well as work on fundraising topics and resources that will benefit our SI-MWR Clubs and the Region as a whole.**

**The SI-MWR Fundraising Team will meet virtually on a regular basis. There will be sub-teams for the variety of interests that the SI-MWR Fundraising Team will be supporting.**

**Please contact me via email at [pilonmary0@gmail.com](mailto:pilonmary0@gmail.com) or call 313-405-5807 if you are interested or would like further information.**

**Thank you,  
Mary Pilon  
SI-MWR Fundraising Chair  
[Pilonmary0@gmail.com](mailto:Pilonmary0@gmail.com)  
313-405-5807**

Roseanne Horne  
c/o SIGP  
1247 Elford Ct  
Grosse Pointe Woods,  
MI 48236



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

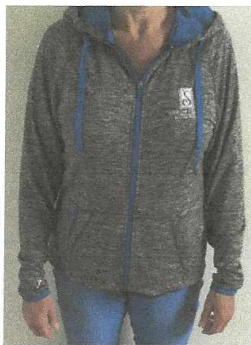
Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Soroptimist club: \_\_\_\_\_



Ladies (S) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (3XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (L) \_\_\_\_\_

Force (XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Picture shows Ladies (S)

Circle embroidery choice

Jacket Cost **\$45**

Shipping: **\$10**

Embroidery - **White** or **Blue**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

updated 5/27/20





## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

Governor **Darcy Merritt**

SI Monroe County

Governor-Elect **Chris Fowler Shearer**

SI Cleveland

Region Secretary **Shelia Zingler-Gilbert**

SI Fond du Lac

Region Treasurer **Audrey Jarvey**

SI Fond du Lac

District I Director **Susan Frankel**

SI Fond du Lac

District I Secretary **Connie Gindt**

SI Fond du Lac

District II Director **Ruth Waggoner**

SI Kenton-Hardin County

District II Secretary **Laura Ferguson**

SI Kenton-Hardin County

District III Director **Kellie Klingel**

SI Flat Rock Area

District III Secretary **Patricia Cavell**

SI Monroe County

District IV Director **Abby Bouton**

SI Columbus & Franklin County

District IV Secretary **Mary Lorenzo**

SI Canton Stark County

CHECK US OUT ON  
THE WEB!  
[WWW.SIMWR.ORG](http://WWW.SIMWR.ORG)



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## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2020 / 2022 Board



Front Row L to R: Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey; Region Governor Darcy Merritt; Region Governor-Elect Christine Fowler Shearer; D4 Secretary Mary Lorenzo  
Back Row L to R: D2 Secretary Laura Ferguson; D2 Director Ruth Waggoner; D3 Secretary Patricia Cavell; D3 Director Kellie Klingel; D1 Secretary Connie Gindt; D4 Director Abby Bouton; D1 Director Susan Frankel;  
Not pictured: Region Secretary Sheila Zingler-Gilbert .

## Connections for the 2020—2022 Midwestern Board

### Emails Contacts

Governor-- Darcy Merritt - ([dmeritt1963@outlook.com](mailto:dmeritt1963@outlook.com))

Governor Elect -- Christine Fowler Shearer—([fowlerartistic@gmail.com](mailto:fowlerartistic@gmail.com))

Secretary— Shelia Zingler-Gilbert - ([sheilasifdl@gmail.com](mailto:sheilasifdl@gmail.com))

Treasurer - Audrey Jarvey - ([audreyjarv@gmail.com](mailto:audreyjarv@gmail.com))

Soroptimist International of the Americas - ([siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org))

### 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 Summary ([soroptimistsummary.org](http://soroptimistsummary.org))

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

Tweet us [@SoroptimistMWR](https://twitter.com/SoroptimistMWR)

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