



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

**December
2019
Edition**

The Vision

2019 Date to Remember

- **12/15** Club Live
Your Dream Award
Winner due to District Director

2020

SPRING CONFERENCE

- April 24-26
Ann Arbor, MI-pg 14

SIA CONVENTION

- July 22-25
Bellevue, WA-pgs 15&16

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SI of:

[Greater Macomb](#)

[Grosse Pointe](#)

[Lucas County](#)

[Suburban Chicago](#)

Governor's Message



Holiday Greetings!

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This is a busy time for most

of us, juggling family, friends, work and Soroptimist obligations. Please make sure to take time for yourself and enjoy the rest of 2019, 2020 will be here soon enough!

As we are all busy, I'll keep this short. Your club should be hip deep in getting your Live Your Dream Awards judged and sent to your District Director by 12/15. You should also be receiving Wagner applications, if your club doesn't have any by the end of the month, please contact your Director.

Registration is open for the 2020 SIA Convention, to be held the coming July in Bellevue Washington, and I hope that you're thinking of attending. It's a great opportunity to see "the big picture" of SIA and we also have quite a bit of fun as well.

Kris Armstrong
Midwestern Region Governor

**HAPPY HOLIDAY'S
FROM ALL OF US
TO ALL OF YOU!**



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

2020-2022 MWR Nomination Form

DEADLINE for the Nominations Forms is:
DECEMBER 20, 2019

Dear Clubs in the Midwestern Region,

Just a reminder that nominations are open in our region for the 2020-2022 Governor-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, all District Directors and all District Secretaries.

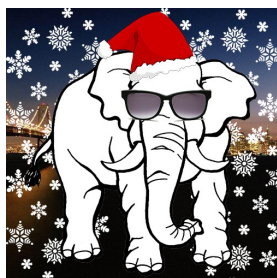
By clicking on this link you will be directed to [members only – tools & resources - then click on the 2020-2022 MWR Nomination Form and download](#). Nomination forms will also be available at both District Meetings.

Please consider stepping up and taking a board position.

If you have questions, please contact the Region Nomination Chair Valencia Clark at vclark003@columbus.rr.com

Soroptimist International of Lucas County

First attendee, Brooke Bellman, and I were so happy to see so many of our friends at the District Meeting in October. We took advantage of some of the extras at the conference center. Hopefully we can all get together again next fall. Looking forward to Ann Arbor in the spring.



December 3 will be our annual Christmas get together pot luck and white elephant gift exchange. It also is the evening for the judging of the nine qualifying LYD applicants by our three judges. Brooke, our LYD chair, says all the applicants are worthy and the judges will have a hard time honoring the top three.

Also, it is a time when all the ideas flow around for what we would like to do in the following year. We are so thankful that we were able to help those we could and look forward to doing more of the same in the next year.

SI Road to Equality 2019-2021



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

Are you ready for the journey? Soroptimist International is delighted to announce its first collaboration on The Road to Equality, the SI President's Appeal, 2019-2021. Working with the highly influential Global Media Campaign to End FGM, The Road to Equality is to support six determined women activists as they work to bring an END to Female Genital Mutilation. Find out more about the Appeal and how you can show your support for The Road to Equality 'Soroptimist Six'.

#SIRoadtoEquality #ENDFGM #16Days

READ MORE

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) | Text 233733 | Live Chat

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe

Days for Girls goes to Damongo, Ghana!

Submitted by Kerri Green

SIGP recently purchased Days for Girls kits (reusable sanitary pads) for the St. Anne's Girls Secondary School (SAGISS) that the club supports in Damongo, Ghana. Three members (Kerri Green, Carol Hofer, and Rosanne Morrow) travelled to Ghana in November 2019 to distribute these kits!



As the temperature soared to 100 F in Damongo, the SIGP visitors bumped down the dusty, pot-holed covered path leading to SAGISS, and were greeted by 70+ very excited students. The girls had arranged a performance of six different African tribal dances and music to make us feel welcome. It was a very entertaining presentation! The headmaster, Madame Pauline, acknowledged that they didn't have any gifts to give us, except for their beautiful smiles.

SIGP members announced that we brought gifts instead, so schedules were rearranged, and we gathered all of the students later that afternoon to learn about Days for Girls.

Kerri Green, thanks to the DfG flip-chart, led an educational seminar focused on puberty, reproduction, and menstruation. The teenaged girls were surprisingly quiet and attentive!



Finally, each girl was provided a kit, and the fun began. Everyone opened their kits, and we reviewed all of the contents. Each girl received 2 panties, 2 cotton sanitary liners with wings, 8 flannel inserts for the liners, a washcloth, soap, and calendar with instructions. The girls held up their colorful panties with glee. Kerri then pulled out an extra huge pair of panties to get everyone giggling, and to demonstrate how to use the sanitary liners and inserts. We had each girl affix a liner to her new panties and practice using the inserts, and then we went around to confirm the placement was correct. After learning how to properly care for the kit and discussion on how to stay healthy, the girls repacked their kits with excitement. In a rural village where they have so little, the girls were thrilled to receive the kits! Their gratefulness was heartwarming.



Several days later, when Madame Pauline was saying goodbye to us, she thanked us again for the kits, and said that one student reported she was already using the kit, and it was effective!

On the last day of our visit to Ghana, we attended a Soroptimist meeting in Accra (about 11 hours south of Damongo). Imagine our delight that one of SI Accra's main projects is creating Reusable Sanitary Pads (RSPs) for local girls. They have already made and distributed over 1,000 kits, which are quite similar to DfG!



Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Public Awareness Chair

Using the S Logo

[Take One Step](#) by using the S logo on your publicity materials! With the end of the year on the horizon, remember that your SIA Board of Directors asked that clubs begin exclusively using the S logo as their visual identity (if they haven't done so already) by December 31, 2019. Thank you to all the clubs that have taken steps to update your publicity materials, banners, websites and social media pages with the S logo, which is SIA's main visual identifier. You can [download the S logo](#) from the Recognition and Branding page of the website. Help us grow public recognition of our impact!

P.S. Has your club taken steps to help more women and girls? Download and post our special [social media badge](#) to celebrate your work!

Best for Women Newsletter

Purchasing a *Best for Women* newsletter subscription for your award recipients, local library or domestic violence shelter, is a great way to stay connected and raise awareness about SIA. To order a subscription, contact siahq@soroptimist.org and reference the *Best for Women* newsletter subscription.

To review past editions of *Best for Women* please see the link below.

<https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/for-members/best-for-women-newsletter.html>

An answer from SIA Headquarters about Celebrating Success Submissions

From: Vivian Walczesky [vivianwal@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 1:15 PM

To: SIA Headquarters

Subject: Celebrating Success question

Our region just concluded another district meeting this past weekend. All entries for each pillar were read to attendees. We had 56 entries.

A question: how many times can any club submit a Celebrating Success entry in the same pillar?

Your instructions already indicate that the same entry may be submitted in each pillar and the entry form being changed to reflect which pillar the entry is being entered in. However, we had one club who entered multiple entries under Program.

Attendees questioned the multiple entries in Program and wanted to know if that was allowed. I could find no instruction under Celebrating Success that addressed this. I could only find the instructions about the same entry being entered in all 4 pillars.

Can you please direct me to the instructions if any that address multiple entries under the same pillar for Celebrating Success. Our region wants to get this straightened out before the next year.

Thank you.

Vivian Walczesky
Chair, Celebrating Success 2018-2020
Midwestern Region

From: Anna Kabrich [mailto:anna@soroptimist.org]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:33 AM

To: Vivian Walczesky <vivianwal@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: RE: Celebrating Success question

Hello Vivian,

Thank you for writing! There are not any stipulations about how many times a club can submit a Celebrating Success entry for the same pillar. Many regions have clubs that submit multiple entries for each pillar to showcase the work of the club.

If this is of concern, please let me know and I can discuss further with the team.

Sincerely,
Anna

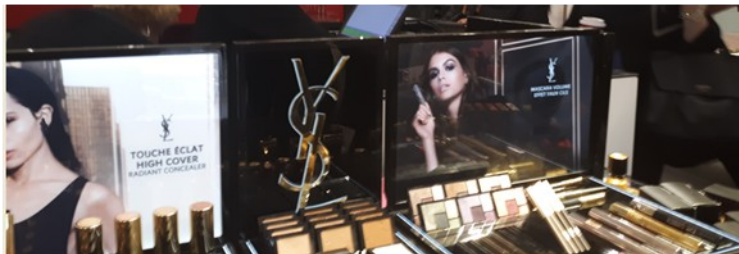
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www.soroptimist.org
www.liveyourdream.org

Soroptimist International Of Greater Macomb

Greater Macomb had two fun events in November, one of them being a fundraiser.

We held our very successful Bunco event on Friday, November 8, again at the New Baltimore Civic Club. We had about 20 more people attend than last year and we all had a great time.

In addition to the Bunco games, attendees enjoyed our appetizer buffet, cash bar, and Rumchada shots. Other activities were a 50/50 raffle and a basket raffle. A great time was had by all and we look forward to doing this again next year.



Then on Thursday, Nov 21 we held our 3rd annual Ladies' Night Out at Nordstrom's, this year at Somerset Collection, in their cafe. With our friends, daughters, and various other relatives, we had about 30 in attendance.

Again Cathy, a Nordstrom's manager presented a few dozen skin care and makeup products that are either new or at a holiday special price. When we were leaving the cafe to go shop the cosmetics department, Cathy gave us all goodie bags with sample sizes of various Shiseido products.

At the cosmetics department we could have scalp, shoulder, back massages and received another small sample bag of Three Jack Black products. And if you bought enough Clinique product, you also received a third freebie: a small makeup bag of Clinique product.

To top all that off, Cathy held a raffle for us. Three attendees won baskets of even more name brand goodies.

Looking to 2020, we are planning another Dream It Be It in March as well as our big 75th Anniversary & Awards Banquet in April.

Soroptimist International of Suburban Chicago

Halloween-themed Basket for "Tears in Heaven"

Suburban Chicago did donate the basket to this non-profit for their Family Halloween Party in Lisle, IL. Tears in Heaven was established by a mother who lost her child to domestic violence. Half of the proceeds go to provide help to families who have lost a child to domestic violence. Help is in the form of things like burial or medical expenses. The other 50% goes to Family Shelter Service (FSS) which Suburban Chicago has supported since 1989. Last year FSS replaced their shelter playground.



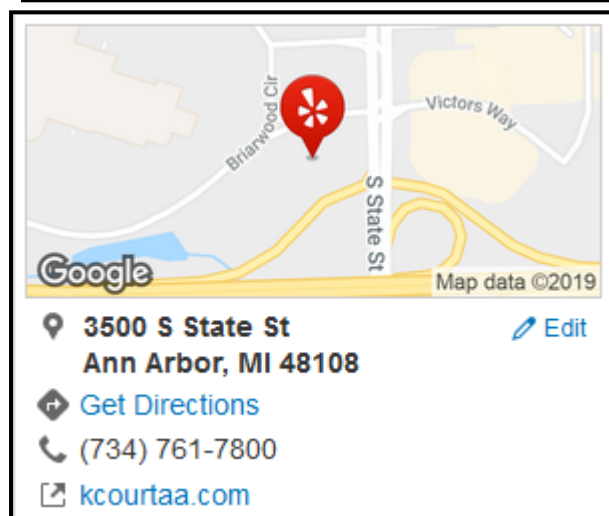


Save the Date
Spring Conference 2020
 April 24, 25, & 26
 Kensington Hotel Ann Arbor MI

Educate to Empower

Darcy Merritt
 Installed as Governor of the
 Midwestern Region

The poster features the Soroptimist logo (a stylized 'S' in a square) with the text 'SOROPTIMIST Best for Women' below it. On the right is a circular seal for 'SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL MIDWESTERN REGION' with a colorful map of the region. At the bottom, silhouettes of women holding hands are shown against a blue sky with clouds.



**MORE INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW**



**Helping women and girls
live their dreams**



Join Us for SIA's 46th Biennial Convention

You won't want to miss it!

Reach New Heights with SIA in Bellevue! The 46th Biennial Convention will be one for the books. There is so much fun, friendship and learning in store. Plus, be there as we kick off Soroptimist's year-long 100th Anniversary celebration!

See the back of this page for information you need to plan your trip—including pricing, where to stay, how to register and more! Be sure to follow the convention Facebook page <<https://www.Facebook.com/SIAConv2020/>> for updates on speakers, tours and other exciting details!



Make new friends and catch up with old ones! This is your chance to connect with Soroptimists from around the world!



Be inspired by informative keynote speakers and workshops!



Indulge in a world-class urban experience and enjoy all the shopping, dining, arts and culture you can handle.



Explore the great outdoors and take in the beautiful scenery the Pacific Northwest has to offer.



#SIAConv2020



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams



Start Planning Your Trip Today!



Registration and housing open in October!

Visit the SIA website Sorooptimist.org/SIAConv2020.html for all the details you need to make this convention one you'll never forget!

Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Bellevue Hotel
900 Bellevue Way, NE
Bellevue, Washington 98004 USA
Phone: (425) 462-1234

Book your room when you register for convention via the hotel link included with the convention registration information. Must book online to receive SIA discount.

- **Single or Double (king or two queens):** \$219 USD, + 14.4%, tax per room/per night
- **Triple (three people sharing room):** \$244 USD, + 14.4% tax per room/per night
- **Quad (four people sharing room):** \$269 USD, + 14.4% tax, per room/per night

Hotel reservation deadline: June 10, 2020

Meals/Social Events

- Wednesday, July 2—Friendship Dinner: \$110 USD
- Thursday, July 23—Sit-down Lunch: \$70 USD
- Saturday, July 25—Sit-down Lunch: \$70 USD
- Saturday, July 25—Recognition Banquet: \$120 USD

Registration Rates*

	Early Bird <i>By January 15</i>	Regular <i>January 16-May 15</i>	Late/Onsite <i>May 16-July 25</i>	Daily
Member/ Non-Delegate	\$550	\$625	\$675	\$325 \$375 (late/onsite)
Delegate**	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Guest	—	\$350	\$375	—

**Registration fees cover the cost of convention, including speakers, interpretation services, and audio visual services that enhance your experience through projections, live camera operators, teleprompters for presenters and more.*

***SIA will send an invoice to all clubs for the delegate fee. All clubs are required to pay this fee.*

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Board

Governor Kris Armstrong

SI Bloomington Normal

Governor-Elect Darcy Merritt

SI Monroe County

Region Secretary Missie Austin

SI Kenton Hardin Co

Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey

SI Fond du Lac

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SI Fond du Lac

District I Secretary Connie Gindt

SI Fond du Lac

District II Director Barb Flory

SI Middletown

District II Secretary Jennifer Prater

SI Hancock County

District III Director Mary Pilon

SI Wyandotte Southgate Taylor

District III Secretary Lata Shastri

SI Wyandotte-Southgate-Taylor

District IV Director Chris Fowler Shearer

SI Canton/Stark County

District IV Secretary Abby Bouton

SI Columbus & Franklin County

CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!

WWW.SIMWR.ORG



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Karrie Blankenship
SI Grosse Pointe
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Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2018 / 2020 Board



Standing: Christine Shearer, Jenny Prater, Barb Flory, Susan Frankel,
Connie Gindt, Mary Pilon, Lata Shastri, Abby Bouton

Seat: Missie Austin, Kris Armstrong, Darcy Merritt, Audrey Jarvey

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)

Soroptimist Summary (soroptimistsummary.org)

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region Social Media connections

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

Like us on Facebook at [@simwrgov](https://www.facebook.com/simwrgov)

MIDWESTERN REGION 2019

November 15	Form 990 due to IRS
November 15	Live Your Dream Applications Due to Clubs
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 10	Human Rights Day – President’s Appeal
December 15	Club Live Your Dream Award Winner due to District Director

MIDWESTERN REGION 2020

January 10-12	Winter Board Meeting - Time and Place TBD
January 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in the US
January 15	Virginia Wagner Award Applications due to Clubs
January 15	District Live Your Dream Award Winner due to Region Chair
January 18-20	MWR Winter Board Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana
February 1	Club Live Your Dream Report due to District Director
February 15	Virginia Wagner Club Award winners due to District Director
February 15	Region LYD Winner info due to both SIA and Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair
March 1	Soroptimist Club Grant applications due at SI HQ
March 8	International Women’s Day
March 8	Virginia Wagner District Winners due to Region Chair
March 15	Award Report due from District Directors to Governor Elect Darcy
March 31	Region Virginia Wagner Award Winners names to Region Treasurer Audrey Jarvey by Region Chair
March 31	Governor’s Award Form due to Governor Kris Armstrong
April 23 & 24	MWR Board Meeting Kensington Hotel - Ann Arbor, MI
April 24 - 26	2019 Spring Conference Kensington Hotel - Ann Arbor, MI
May 31	Club Giving and Founders Pennies contributions to SIA for 2020 recognition
June 1	Dream It, Be It Online Club Reporting due to SIA
July 1	Club Celebrating Success forms due to Kris Armstrong
July 10-12	MWR Summer Board Meeting, Location TBD
July 22 - 25	SIA 46 th Biennial Convention- Bellevue, WA
July 26 – 27	Governors Roundtable – Bellevue, WA

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD 2018-2020**

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