

# The Pointer

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe  
August 2023



## President and President-Elect's Message Hello from DUBLIN, IRELAND!



If you're reading your *Pointer*, we are in Ireland attending the Soroptimist International Convention! Along with the two of us are Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe's (SIGP) members Mary Ellen Burke, Roseanne Horne, and Mary Bryk (with husband David).

We send you greetings and will share highlights at our business meeting August 9!

Winston Churchill stated: *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"*! Thank you for giving your time, effort, and support for all things Soroptimist including:

- ◆ After 6 on Kercheval, and
- ◆ Infinity Cruise, an exceptional fundraiser. Check out highlights on pages 2 & 3, and 7-11.

### Things to NOTE:

- ◆ The SIGP business meeting on August 9 will be at Grosse Pointe Shores Park, 800 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Shores, 48236. Looking forward to hearing from our guest speaker, Diane Thomson, about the Big Goal. Details on page 4.
- ◆ SIGP budget meeting is set for Wednesday, August 16. All members are welcome to attend. It is a chance to hear and provide input for this fiscal year. RSVP to Roseanne Horne if planning to attend. Details on page 4.
- ◆ Short-term volunteer opportunity to support our club: Metro Beach Boat Show Sept 14-17. Details on page 5.
- ◆ SIGP internal review meeting (review of financial books) is in process. President Karrie has asked four Soroptimist members to complete the Internal Review and they have accepted. Further information will be shared at September's business meeting.

— Karrie Blankenship, SIGP President and Bette Lepouttre, SIGP President-Elect

# Thank you Infinity Sponsors!



(Standing l-r): Joe Bokano of Bokano Builders, LLC; Joe Danley, Raymond James, Grosse Pointe Farms; Nancy Hohlfeldt, Adlhoch & Associates; Laura Palen, 3-Hope, Healing, & Health, Inc., and Robert Victor.

(Seated l-r): Iuliana Keyes, Thomas Financial Group, LLC; Torrie Kirk, 3-Hope, Healing & Health, Inc.; and Mary Ann Victor.

Full list of sponsors on next page.

Photos of cruise on pages 7-11

## August Business Meeting: A Potluck Picnic!

Wednesday, August 9, at Grosse Pointe Shores Park, 800 Lake Shore Drive, GP Shores, at 6:30.

Join us at 6:30 for a potluck dinner and summer social.

Feel free to bring an appetizer, dessert, or dish to share if you wish.

All members' names will be on a roster at the gate where you may be asked to check in.

We'll be under the pavilion even if there's light rain.

In case of really inclement weather, SIGP member Kerri Green will email each of you.

Contact Kerri Green at (jazzykerri@yahoo.com; 586-651-9222) with any questions.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Karrie Blankenship**  
*President*

**Diana Langlois**  
*Vice President*

**Bette Lepouttre**  
*President Elect*

**Mary Bryk**  
*Secretary*

**Nancy Solak**  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Ross Braun**  
*Treasurer*

**Mary Ellen Burke**  
*Assistant Treasurer*

*Directors*  
**Roseanne Horne**  
**Kerri Green**  
**Carolyn Barth**  
**Aleksa Andjelcovic**

The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin *soror*, meaning sister, and *optimus*, meaning best. Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as “best for women.”

## Infinity cruise a BIG SUCCESS!

The day was glorious, the food delicious, the attendees’ faces were relaxed and smiling. This fundraiser (which exceeded financial expectations) spontaneously morphed into what SIGP member and chair of the event Francine Pegues now refers to as a “friendraiser.” Thank you to everyone who supported it in any way. And thank you to the attentive *Infinity* crew!

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

### DIAMOND

**Wells Fargo Advisors**

### PLATINUM

**3-H, Hope, Healing & Health, Inc.**

### GOLD

**Mary Ann & Robert Victor**  
**Iuliana Keyes—Thomas Financial Group, LLC**  
**MPS Company**

**Raymond James – Grosse Pte. Farms**  
**Roy O'Brien Ford**

### SILVER

**Molly Hohlfeldt, Adlhoch & Associates**  
**Bokano Builders, LLC**  
**GP Tax Service, LLC**  
**Charles & Karen Shreve, IV**  
**Miller Law Firm**

### PEWTER

**Marchiori Catering**

### BRONZE

**Flame Furnace**  
**Fidelity Appraisals**  
**Peter Jost, DDS, PC**  
**Fraternal Order of Police, Grosse Pointe Lodge #102**

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

**Grosse Pointe News**  
**Infinity—Ovation Yacht Charter**

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Lakeshore Financial Planning**  
**Ann Mandelbaum Mann**

## Special guest Diane Thompson to speak briefly at August 9 meeting-potluck

**Diane Thompson will be the featured speaker at our business/potluck picnic meeting on Wednesday, August 9, at Grosse Pointe Shores Park.** Diane is a 42-year Soroptimist member and is currently chair of the Dream Big Campaign.

This member-led, member-driven campaign was created to raise money so SIA members and clubs can achieve the 2021-2031 Big Goal.

Diane previously served as SIA Board Member (2008-2010), Chair of SIA Laws and Resolutions Committee, North Atlantic Region Governor (2002-2006), North Atlantic Region Chair of Laws and Resolutions and Newsletter Editor, SI York Club President, all club offices and served on all committees at some point or another for SI York and later SI Butler. Upon her move to the Midwestern Region, she co-chaired the committee to charter SI Hines Park, which chartered in July 2020. She is currently SI Hines Park President-Elect.

Diane is a retired Engineering Director for Komatsu Mining, formerly Joy Global, a heavy equipment OEM serving the mining industry. She led the Centers of Technical Expertise and Product Development Test Center. Her specific area of expertise is in Metallurgical Engineering having graduated with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Technological University.



## You are invited to SIGP's Annual Budget Meeting

Our annual budget meeting will be held Wednesday, August 16, at Roseanne Horne's home at 7:00 pm. Her address is 1247 Elford Ct., Grosse Pointe Woods.

All members are welcome. Please let Roseanne know if you plan to attend by emailing her at [rosewa33@aol.com](mailto:rosewa33@aol.com).

Those members who oversee a program should consider the projected costs of their program and submit those numbers to me or Mary Ellen by August 13, 2023. Whether you are attending or not, this information is helpful to have for completing the process.

— Ross Braun and Mary Ellen Burke  
SIGP Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

## Volunteer at Metro Boat Show and earn money for SIGP!

We have been contacted by the Michigan Boating Industries Association to once again earn money for our club by volunteering at the Metro Beach Boat Show September 14 - 17. Club members can earn \$15 per hour for SIGP.

This is an outdoor boat show at Metro Beach located at 16 Mile and Jefferson. Jobs include selling tickets, giving out information, kids crafts, etc.



### Hours:

Thursday, Sept. 14.....	1-4 pm	or	4-7:30 pm
Friday, Sept. 15.....	1-4 pm	or	4- 7:30 pm
Saturday, Sept 16.....	11 am-3 pm	or	3-7:30 pm
Sunday, Sept.17.....	11am-2:30 pm	or	2:30-6:00 pm

Let me know if you are interested. Bring a friend or family member. All hours worked will go toward our club! Work as many or few hours as you would like. This schedule is flexible! Thanks for your help!

— Roseanne Horne, SIGP Board Director, 313-706-1801

## Happy August Birthday to ...



Sharon Zmick, August 3

Bette Lepouttre, August 8

Diana Langlois, August 12

Susan Lewandowski, August 23

Apologies to Jane Lightfoot whose birthday (July 19) was mistakenly left off last month's list. We hope it was a good one!



## Anti-Human Trafficking Update

Since many of you joined Soroptimist Grosse Pointe so you could help eradicate human trafficking, there's something substantive you can do that doesn't take much time but can translate into big rewards. Here is a link to the Michigan Abolitionist Project's (MAP) email alert system for HT legislation.

<https://miadvocacy.org/contact-us>

I hope you sign up for the alerts. MAP will keep you informed about pending legislation regarding human trafficking, and how to contact your representatives/senators through direct links to their webpages. This is similar to the system my nursing organizations have and it's effective. It makes it easier to contact them either by email or phone in a timely manner. Legislators monitor these contacts, even if you are only able to talk to an aide or leave a message.



The site also provides information on what legislation is pending, so you can be informed when you go to one of your legislator's local "coffee hours." These coffee hours are usually not well-attended. This means you have your legislator's ear and can help push through legislation simply by bringing the legislation to their attention. There are many bills in the hopper that have been sitting around for ages, and together we can help nudge them through our Michigan Legislature.

If you are interested and willing to write an email or make a quick phone call, this is a way to keep contact with your lawmakers. Big things grow from a tiny seed. Click on the link above to sign up.

— Liz Lucas, Anti-Human Trafficking Chair

### Board Meetings

There will be no board meeting in August since half the board is in Ireland.  
The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, September 6, at Mary Ellen's.

#### CORRECTIONS FROM JULY 2023 EDITION OF THE POINTER

In Mentoring for Success, Desiree Perry's daughter's name was misspelled. It is Ariya. And Desiree, not Jamie Pakula, graduated from Macomb Community with an ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing).

## Photos from Infinity Cruise, July 11, 2023



*A large contingent of Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe members who were aboard the Infinity yacht.*

*Seated: Rasheda Williams, Carolyn Barth, Karrie Blankenship, Nancy Hohlfeldt, Nancy Solak, Sue Plath*

*Standing: Roseanne Horne, Toni Adams, Carol Hofer, Lillian Frazier, Erin O'Mara, Kerri Green, Cindy Gohkle,*

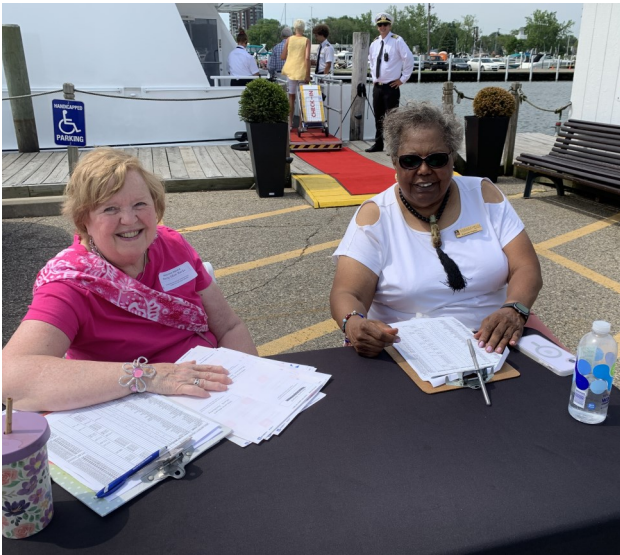
*Barb Skelly, Ross Braun, Amanda Be, Marlane Washington, Mary Ellen Burke, Diana Langlois, Jane Evola*

*and peeking from the very back row, Francine Pegues.*

## More photos on next pages!



More photos from Infinity cruise



*SIGP members Mary Ellen Burke and Francine Pegues check in attendees before they board.*



*SIGP members Maureen Anthony and Barb Skelly.*



*SIGP members Marlane Washington and Karrie Blankenship greet people as they board. A crew member was nearby to offer a mimosa to each person as they arrived.*



*SIGP members Amanda Be, Kerri Green and Nancy Hohlfeldt.*

More photos on next page

<https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/>



More photos from Infinity cruise



*Above: Elizabeth Cacaj, SIGP member Diana Langlois, and Iuliana Keyes.*

*At right: SIGP member Carolyn Barth.*



*SIGP members Ross Braun and Cindy Gohkle.*



*Linda Glenn, SIGP member Lillian Frazier, and Anne Turner.*



*SIGP members Jane Evola and Carol Hofer.*



*SIGP members Marlane Washington and Toni Adams.*



*Pat Quinn and Betty Dillon.*



*SIGP members Jane Evola and Rasheda Williams, with Joe Danley.*

More photos on next page



More photos from Infinity cruise



*Debra Westbrook with her son Marvin McQueen. Thanks to a benefactor who gifted them a van, this outing aboard the Infinity was Marvin's first time out of the house in four years!*



*Inside the Infinity on the top deck.*



*The Lakepointe Towers Condo group:*

*Seated: Mary & Paul Hulswit, Kathleen Winterfield, and Sue Dungan.*

*Standing: SIGP member Diana Langlois, Geri Rebelski, and Pat Barber.*



*Kathy Jackson and Natethania McGaughy.*

[More photos on next page](#)



More photos from Infinity cruise



*SIGP members Jane Evola and Roseanne Horne.*



*Seated: Pam & Roger Prisbe, SIGP member Diana Langlois, and Mel Anglewicz.*

*Standing: Frank & Sandy Tenkel, SIGP member Barb Skelly, and Rich Odendahl.*



*The stern of the yacht is outdoors.*



*SIGP member Sue Plath with members of the crew.*



*Shirley Moore, Cherise Martin and Sharon Ford.*



*SIGP members Sue Plath, Bette Lepouttre and Mary Ellen Burke.*





Next SI Convention will be an Alaskan Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean! <https://siconvention.org>

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We hope you are just as excited as we are about our [48th Biennial Convention](#) being held in Bellevue, Washington, USA, July 24-27, 2024! — SIA Board

## Midwestern Region Board

Governor – Christine Fowler Shearer, SI Cleveland  
([simwrgov@gmail.com](mailto:simwrgov@gmail.com))  
Governor Elect: Audrey Jarvy, SI Fond du Lac  
([adreyjarv@gmail.com](mailto:adreyjarv@gmail.com))  
Secretary – Sheila Zingler-Gilbert, SI Fond du Lac  
([sheilasifdl@gmail.com](mailto:sheilasifdl@gmail.com))  
Treasurer – Linda Alpers, SI NE Suburban Franklin County  
([Isa6976@gmail.com](mailto:Isa6976@gmail.com))

## District III

District III Director – Kellie Klingel, SI Flat Rock Area  
([ktklingel@yahoo.com](mailto:ktklingel@yahoo.com))  
District III Secretary – Gail Hutra, SI Monroe  
([gahutra1960@yahoo.com](mailto:gahutra1960@yahoo.com))

## Soroptimist Websites

Grosse Pointe Soroptimist: <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.org/>  
Soroptimist International Midwestern Region <https://simwr.org>  
Soroptimist International of the Americas <https://simwr.org>  
Soroptimist International <https://soroptimistinternational.org>

## Soroptimist Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist  
and to the ideals for which it stands:  
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.



## SIGP's PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEES

WEBSITE: [grossepointesoroptimist.net](https://grossepointesoroptimist.net) ..... Lori Schumann  
or <https://www.grossepointesoroptimist.net/sigp-calendar-.html> for calendar

Submit photos, club information, news, upcoming events, and dates to this email  
so the information can be accessed by all public awareness chairs:

EMAIL: [grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointesoroptimist@gmail.com) ..... Nancy Solak

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/soroptimistgrossepointe ..... Geri Pleva  
INSTAGRAM: soroptimistgp ..... Geri Pleva

### NEWSLETTER & MEDIA: *The Pointer*

is on the club's website and is emailed to each member.

Deadline for photos and articles is the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month ..... Nancy Solak