



# The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 96 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City  
South Central Region

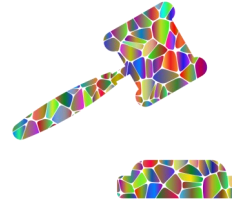
SOROPTIMIST® May 2022

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message  
Heather Rollins



Editor's Note:

President Heather is traveling this month and is unable to send us a president's message for May.

She will be back in time for our club meeting on May 18 and will provide us a president's message in June.

In the meantime, please keep the good work going. We are finishing up the club year strong!

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Kay Stewart, Editor

[www.kcsoroptimist.org](http://www.kcsoroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation  
Soroptimist International  
of Kansas City  
1221 West 103rd #224  
Kansas City, MO 64114

### 2022-2023 Club Officers

President: Melanie Simpson

President Elect: Margaret Smith

Treasurer: Grace Kim

Secretary: Kay Stewart

Director 1 year term: Danielle Sidney

Director 2 year term: Lynn LeCount

Immediate Past President: Heather Rollins

### Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation Trustees

Bonnie Cutler (2023)

Jane Zelazny-Belz (2023)

Candy Routledge (2024)

Marie Parker (2024)

Jerri Cofran (2025)

Valerie Phillips (2025)



Registration is open for the  
**Soroptimist Civility Training**  
 Webinar!

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

7:00pm-8:00pm EDT

Cost = FREE

\*Interpretation Provided\*

While members each have a unique set of qualities and characteristics that make them special, sometimes there is friction among personalities that can cause unrest in a club. This can lead to a variety of unpleasant issues and poor club relations – often resulting in members leaving their club. Attend this training to learn more about promoting respectful and considerate behavior.

You can also find Zoom Tips here to help you navigate the Zoom interface we will use for the webinar.

Check the email that is attached to your Signpost edition for registration.

JOIN US

Thank you,  
 SIA Headquarters



## May Calendar

**May 11**

**Board Meeting**  
 Shepherd's Center  
 9200 Ward Parkway  
 Suite 200  
 KCMO 64114  
 6:00 p.m.  
 (Thank you Janet!)

**May 18**

**Business Meeting**  
 O'Neill's Restaurant  
 6:00 p.m.

**May 28**

**Community Service**  
**Women Vets BBQ**  
**Location/Time TBD**



**May Birthdays**

Jassma Thomas May 28

**Business Meeting,**  
**Wednesday May 11**  
**O'Neill's Restaurant**  
**9417 Mission Road**  
**Leawood, KS 66206**

**Menu**

**Chicken Marsala**  
**\$20.00**

**Program**

**Sisters in Christ**

Please RSVP to Marie Parker  
 by COB Monday, May 16



## Time to Pay our Club Dues Again



It does seem like the year has gone by quickly, but election of new officers for the 2022-2023 club year reminds us that we have to renew our dues with the club and SIA.

Our dues will remain the same this year.

They break out as follows:

### **2022-2023 Federation Dues and Fees**

\$74.00 - SIA dues

\$9.00 - per capita payment to Soroptimist International

\$9.00 - Club liability insurance

\$6.12 - Founders pennies (optional)\* Explanation below....

\$67.00 - Club administration

**Total \$165.12**

**Please mail your check to Grace Kim, Treasurer for receipt no later than May 31, 2022.**



### ***Founders Pennies:***

*Each year, Soroptimist clubs make Founders Pennies donations to celebrate the founding of our organization and support its global Dream Programs. Founders Pennies are a classic, time-honored tradition for clubs, and a creative way to help fund life changing programs. Founders Pennies help create a local and global relationship between Soroptimist clubs and members, and the women and girls who need our support.*

*Founders Pennies are used to fund the Live Your Dream Awards, Dream It, Be It, and other SIA programs that improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. Founders Pennies represent approximately 10 percent of the total \$1.7 million contributed to fund federation programs.*

*Founders Pennies are set at \$.06 per member times the number of years that SIA has been in existence (1921). **For the 2022-2023 club year, \$.06 x 101 years = \$6.12 per member.***

*The tradition of giving pennies began in 1943. Clubs collected one penny for each year of Soroptimist's existence and used the money to help re-establish clubs in Europe that had disbanded as a result of pre-World War II political conditions and the war itself. In 1946 the fund was renamed the Founders Fund. This fund provided international fellowships, scholarships and other awards to improve the status of women. Beginning in the 1960s, Founders Pennies began funding for the Youth Citizenship Awards, and now the Live Your Dream Awards.*



# South Central Region Conference

The 2022 SCR Conference hosted by SI Amarillo, Texas was one of the best in a long time. After two years of COVID, we were so ready to meet again face to face. The entire weekend bubbled with enthusiasm. The workshops were excellent, the reports encouraging, the hotel superb. The food was excellent, the rooms very comfortable, the meeting rooms had heat! Friday night's SOD POODLES baseball game promised to be a great time of minor league baseball and hotdogs. If only the weather had cooperated. Ah, the best plans.....Actually, it was fun and a few hardy souls stayed to see them win against San Antonio 11-10.

A full report will be provided by your delegates Dianne Young, Rosemary Moran and Danielle Sidney at the May club meeting.



Great ballpark.



Wind gusts up to 70 mph!



Rain and hail. The only things we didn't have were fire, famine and pestilence....



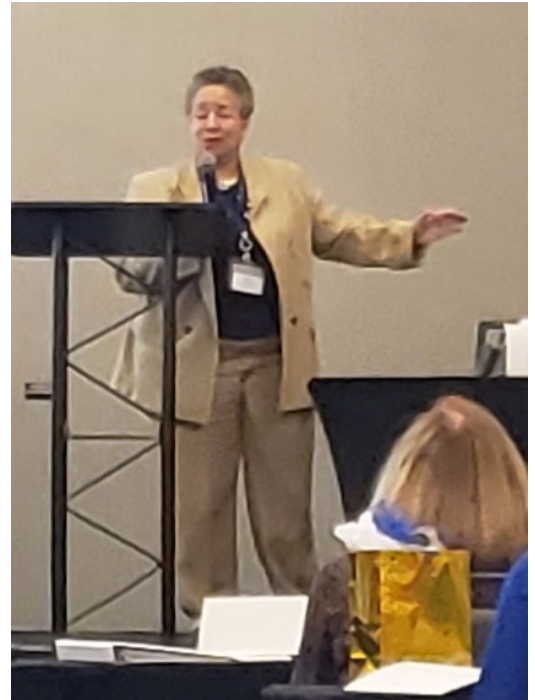
What would Amarillo be with The Big Texan Steakhouse?

## South Central Region Conference



SIKC Attendees. L-R: Kay Stewart, Delegate Dianne Young, Governor Grace Boswell, Delegate Rosemary Moran, Norma McKelvy, and Delegate Danielle Sidney.

Governor Grace delivering her outgoing speech.



SIKC won the Region Norma Caldwell Communicate and Grow Award for the Signpost.

Governor Grace accepting her Past Governor's gift from the Region.



Notable Quote from Governor Grace  
 "Covid - We're Soroptimist, we don't let small things keep us from doing what we are supposed to do."





## More SCR Conference News

Our First Place Live Your Dream winner, Ashley Morrison received an additional \$3000 award from the Region. We are so proud of her.



On Saturday afternoon we attended an excellent workshop on Diversity and Inclusion. It was presented by Angela Allen, Chief Officer for Diversity and Inclusion with West Texas A&M University. She was delightful, knowledgeable and wore a killer outfit.....

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 3459 8089

# Why is diversity important?

Psychologist Charlan Nemeth showed that the mere presence of a minority viewpoint on a work team stimulated creativity among all the members by forcing a reexamination of basic assumptions and by encouraging more open and frank dialogue.

WT Office for Diversity and Inclusion



[www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/97e5b7840ad011c2e69365fa621368ac0d068513a06e43](http://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/97e5b7840ad011c2e69365fa621368ac0d068513a06e43)

# Equity

Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

WT Office for Diversity and Inclusion  
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY





# Ukraine and Veronica's Voice

At our April business meeting we collected personal toilet items for the refugees in Ukraine. Lynn LeCount was astonished at how much we collected.



From Lynn: Here is a composite view of the 70 pounds of aid we collected! I believe every man, woman and child currently in Lublin will now have a toothbrush and floss. :-)

I researched various delivery options then Jon helped me pack the items into four boxes last weekend. This weekend I plan to ship them.

\*\*\*\*\*

We also had two terrific speakers at our April meeting. Kristy Childs, Founder and President and Lucy Bloom, Executive Director of Veronica's Voice caught us up on all the changes at the organization. They now own and operate a home for trafficked women in Kansas City, KS and have bought a site for classes and community outreach. They presented several ways

that SIKC can become involved. They are providing respite and hope in the community and are to be commended for their work. We are proud to be supporting them.



## Soroptimist History

Soroptimist International of Kansas City is fortunate that early members saw the value of creating and sustaining a foundation to assist women and children in our community.

There are few clubs that have this luxury. It is important to remind ourselves that a major component of Soroptimist is service. Our Community Service Committee is an integral part of our club and must be ever vigilant for projects that can serve as impetus for hands on service.

Over the last 20 years, our club has participated in a wide range of projects. One of our main projects was the Ronald McDonald Sunday Night Suppers. We did these as often as once a month or as needed for 17 years. We always did a theme such as “Breakfast for Dinner, Italian for Lovers, Souper Bowl, Schools Out” or other such nonsense. The families appreciated our effort, the food and our company. We enjoyed visiting with the families and share their concern for their sick child. Unfortunately COVID brought an end to this project.

Another fun project was a baby shower for the expectant mothers at Mother’s Refuge: We gave each girl a laundry basket full of baby toiletries, diapers, baby clothes and something nice for Mom.

We have collected items for non-profits for many years. They are varied but always appreciated. Some of them have been:

- \* Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP): They give a book to each child who enters their door. We have collected and supplied them with many books.
- \* Cross Lines: We collected school supplies and canned goods.
- \* HappyBottoms: We collected diapers and baby wipes.
- \* Don Bosco: School Supplies.
- \* NewHouse: New pillows for domestic violence victims.
- \* Joplin Tornado Victims: Bath towels and wash cloths.
- Just Children and SODA (Society of Disabled Aged) of Harare, Zimbabwe: We sent toiletries, over the counter drugs, bandages, and school supplies in past years.

Despite COVID, we have managed to continue our hands on service in a variety of ways.

- \* We made no-sew blankets for Safehome.
- Collected toiletries and essentials for women VETS.
- Collected and sent toiletries suitable for hiking/camping for refugees of Ukraine.
- Conducted Vision/Manifestation training at Mother’s Refuge.

These are just a few of the many things we have done and will continue to do through the Community Service projects of Soroptimist International of Kansas City.

(Next month: Where did the Soroptimist emblem design come from?)