

# The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 97 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City  
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® April 2023

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



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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

## President's Message Melanie Simpson



Welcome to Spring!

What a great time of year for Soroptimists.

We had a delightful business meeting in March getting to know our Live Your Dreams Award winners, selling some jam, and networking. April's meeting looks to be exciting as well. We have club elections, a speaker from Madam President Camp, and hopefully a lot of great stories (and pictures) from those of us attending the Region Conference April 14-16.

As a reminder, Region conferences are a great opportunity to learn more about Soroptimist, connect with other members, and discover something new! Please plan to attend all or part of the conference. It is the perfect chance since it is right here in Kansas City.

Planning is underway for our May meeting as well. We will be handing out our Service Objectives Awards to 18 different local nonprofit organizations, so we will have lots of guests. This is a great opportunity for us to share with them about SIKC and to learn from them about their organizations and the wonderful projects our funding will support here in the Kansas City area. Please be sure to join us for this uplifting evening. There is a lot going on and I know we are all very busy, but please take the time to smell the spring flowers and reflect on the good work we are doing every day.

President Melanie



## April Calendar



### Board Meeting

April 12, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Shepherd's Center  
9200 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64114

### 97th SCR Conference

April 14-16, 2023

Harrah's

1 Riverboat Drive  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

### Business Meeting

April 19, 2023

6:00 p.m.

O'Neill's Restaurant  
9417 Mission Road  
Leawood, KS 66206

### Special Hands On Event

April 29, 2023

8:30 a.m. to noon

Flourish Furnishings  
11971 Grandview Road  
Grandview, MO 64030



### April Birthdays

Shirley Legg April 3  
Angie Guynes April 12  
Marie Parker April 20

## UPCOMING SPECIAL HANDS ON EVENT

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 29, 2023  
8:30 - NOON**

Mark your calendar for our **Special Hands On Event** assisting **Flourish Furnishings.**

As volunteers, we will help with operational tasks such as:

- \*assisting clients as they shop,
- \*assemble kitchen item kits,
- \*assemble IKEA dressers,
- \*sort and re-stock shelves.....

We'll ask for a show of hands for volunteers at our April business meeting. Friends and family are also welcome.

The more the merrier!



## April Business Meeting

April 19, 2023

O'Neill's Restaurant  
9417 Mission Road  
Leawood, KS 66206

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Business Meeting

### Menu

#### Option A

Baked Potato Soup **or** Shrimp & Tomato Bisque Soup

Somerset Salad

Roll

#### Option B

Somerset Chicken Salad

Roll

Cookie Tray

\$20

(payable at the door)

### Program

#### Madam President Camp

Election—Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees  
(Slate of officers on next page)

### Collection

Feminine hygiene products for Amethyst Place

RSVP to Marie Parker  
no later than Friday, April 14

## Election of Officers for 2023-2024

The members of the Nominating Committee including Jerri Cofran, Heather Rollins, and Marie Parker have selected the following members with their approval for the slate of Board members and Foundation Trustees for 2023-2024.

Margaret Smith, current President-Elect will step into the role of President.

### **SIKC Board**

President-Elect – Lynn LeCount

Secretary – Heather Rollins

Treasurer – Grace Boswell

Director – Angie Guynes(2025)

Director – Mysti Meiers(2024) replacing Lynn LeCount as she is our President-Elect

### **Foundation Trustees**

Danielle Sidney (2026)

Tanya Johannes (2026)

Marcia Boutz (2025) replacing Valerie Phillips

Here is the verbiage from our club bylaws concerning the voting process.

### **ARTICLE V Nominations and Elections**

Section 2 Election—The election shall be held at the business meeting in April. The report of the nominating committee shall be read and additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent of the nominee has been obtained. Election shall be by ballot for any office for which there is more than one nominee. If election by ballot is required, the president shall appoint three tellers, none of whom shall be a nominee for any office.





## Live Your Dream Award Winners



Laura Graves 1st Place,  
and Grace Boswell,  
Live Your Dream Chair

Thank you to the LYD  
Committee,  
Margaret Smith,  
Rosemary Moran,  
Marcia Boutz and Grace  
Kim.

Special thanks to our  
Judge, Sandra Jiles



Lori Lentenbrink 3rd Place,  
and Grace Boswell



Megan Lamb 2nd Place



## SCR Region Conference Coming This Month

When: April 14-16, 2023

Where: Harrah's North Kansas City  
Hosted by SI Kansas City Northland

Please plan on attending at some point during the weekend.

If you have not attended a conference in the past, this is a great opportunity to see the bigger picture of what Soroptimist is all about.

We will meet other clubs, learn what they are doing, and make new friends.

It is a great experience.

## Service Objectives



Your Service Objectives Committee reviewing the applications for this year's grants.

L-R Clockwise:  
Dianne Young,  
Kay Stewart, Norma  
McKelvy, Heather Rollins,  
Tanya Johannes, Rosemary  
Moran, and Marcia Boutz..

A Celebration of Service is planned for May 17 to present the awards to the winning organizations. Please mark your calendars now and join us for our first in person celebration since COVID



## Member News

Dr. Margaret Smith went to San Pedro, Guatemala in March on a medical trip. Here she is front and center with the nurses and medical students.



She loved the view from the top of the hospital. They were on a lake surrounded by volcanoes. Fortunately, the volcanoes are minimally active.



Some of her compadres.



## Great Recognition! Way to go, Jane!!!!

SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 6-10, 2023

# WIC WEEK



## JANE ZELAZNY-BELZ

PURCHASING MANAGER, BUILDINGS  
INDUSTRIAL / POWER / OGC

### CAREER BACKGROUND

I was a Classics major in college - Latin & Greek. I worked for my Dad's mechanical contracting firm during college summers - and decided that I wanted to continue in the contracting industry after graduation. This just proves you don't have to get an engineering degree to succeed in your career in construction. All you need is the will to learn.

### MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN CAREER

Working on the NY Giants MetLife Stadium - estimating and construction. Yes, I've been a NYG fan since I was born.

### ADVICE FOR NEW WIC

Work hard - develop thick skin - speak up and ask questions - develop better listening skills. And learn how to play golf.

### BEST CAREER ADVICE RECEIVED

Tell. The. Truth. Always.

### WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD OF WORKING IN THIS INDUSTRY?

Bringing an idea to life.

### ADVANTAGES OF BEING A WIC

Women bring a different mindset in an industry dominated by men. Women bring a different perspective to every issue - which may expose a new outlook or solution to problems.

### CHALLENGES OF BEING A WIC

Grappling with the male/female stereotypes that unfortunately still exist ("men know about construction - how could women know?") - things have gotten better since I first started my career - but it's still nowhere near where it needs to be.

*40 years  
in the industry*



## More Member News

Congratulations to Danielle Sidney on receiving her Master's Degree in Management and Leadership from Western Governor's University.

Photo from her proud mom, Norma McKelvy.



Western Governors University (WGU) is a private online university based in Millcreek, Utah. The university uses an online competency-based learning model. Degrees awarded by WGU are accredited by the NWCCU, ACBSP, CAEP, CAHIIM, and CCNE. The university was founded by 19 U.S. governors in 1997 after the idea was formulated at a 1995 meeting of the Western Governors' Association.

## UMKC Graduate Assistance Fund Awards

Recently Nora Magee and Kay Stewart represented our club at the UMKC Graduate Assistance Fund Awards Reception held at the Grand Street Café on March 2, 2023.

Our club has a named scholarship as a result of several years of donations via our Foundation. This year our award winner was Sara Kimmel, a doctoral candidate in the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Her project is in the field of Transgender Sensitive Nursing Care as Envisioned by Transgender People. It is a Qualitative Descriptive Study.

UMKC Women's Council Graduate Assistance Fund  
Recipients and Donors

**Sara Kimmel**

School of Nursing and Health Studies  
Ph.D. - Nursing

*I am working on identifying the components of transgender affirming nursing care as hoped and envisioned by the transgender person.*

Soroptimist International of Kansas City Award  
Soroptimist International of Kansas City, donor



## And More Member News...



Wakisha Briggs conducting classes as the Bridge Leadership Academy.



Students thoroughly engrossed in their studies.  
Great focus!

