



The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 95 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region

SOROPTIMIST®

January 2022

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message
Heather Rollins



Happy February!!



Inside This Issue

Calendar/Collection	2
By Laws Change	3
Service Objectives	4
Meet Sydney	5
Bits and Pieces	6
Soroptimist History	7

Kay Stewart, Editor

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With only 28th days within this month, there are a lot of things to be celebrated. We have Black History month, the Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, and President's Day. There is so much to be celebrated this month in such a short amount of time but we always seem to accomplish those big tasks! One of those tasks that we have accomplished as a club is Service Objectives and I give a huge shout out to Kay Stewart and the Service Objectives committee for honoring our mission and goal to service women and girls of our community by granting over \$84,000 in grant award money. It's amazing to be able to bless organizations in need. Additionally, kudos to Valerie Phillips and her Live Your Dream committee as they have also granted \$10,000 in Live Your Dream awards. In total, Soroptimist International of Kansas City has given away \$104,000 in grants during this club year. You all should give yourself a round of applause or pat yourselves on the back as it took many years of dedication in order to be in this position. Great work SIKC!

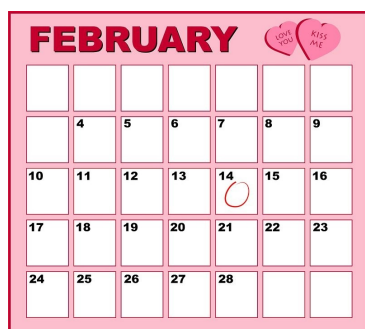
February marks the month that we select the nominating committee to start the work of electing our 2022-2023 Club Officers. Time has flown by and I'm feeling like we just got started for this club year.

Needless to say, we will be starting the work of selecting the nominating committee and sharing those members soon.



President Heather

February Calendar



February 9
Board Meeting
 Location TBD
 6:00 p.m.

February 13
SUPER BOWL

February 16
Business Meeting
 via Zoom
 6:00 p.m.



February Birthdays

Nora Magee February 2
 Rosemary Moran February 21

Business Meeting, Wednesday February 16
via Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Pour a glass of your favorite beverage
 Fix a plate of your favorite snacks
 and join us for our business meeting.

Because of Covid, we will not be meeting in person, but we can have a good time celebrating completion and distribution of our Service Objectives awards.

***Our collection this month is for
 Bridge Leadership Academy, one of our Service
 Objectives grant winners.***

We are asking our members to purchase two new pillows and pillowcases to drop off at
The Little Gallery (Dianne Young's gallery)

Dianne has graciously agreed to be the drop off point for this collection.

If you would prefer pickup, contact Kay Stewart

Bridge Leadership Academy would like to Thank the amazing women of Soroptimist for selecting us for this month's service project. The pillows and pillowcases donated to our organization will be given to the youth we serve. Pillows are critical to youth getting a comfortable night of rest in order to function properly in school and in their personal life.



ByLaws Update

Every two years, clubs in our Region must submit their bylaws for review and approval by SIA. Our bylaws went to the Region ByLaws Chair in November. We were recently notified that they are not in compliance with SIA requirements.

The section in question is Article III Section 2. Privileges of membership:

- (a) All members whose participation meets the requirements set forth in these bylaws, may speak, may make motions and vote.
- (b) Only a Regular member in good standing may be elected to or retain office. Only a Regular member may serve as a delegate to Federation Convention, Region Conference, or District Meeting.

Point (b) is in violation of SIA bylaws.

To be compliant, your Bylaws committee proposes the following change as underlined. Article III Section 2. Privileges of membership:

- (a) All members whose participation meets the requirements set forth in these bylaws, may hold office, speak, make motions, and vote.
- (b) All members in good standing may be elected to or retain Club office and may serve as a delegate to Federation Convention, Region Conference, or Fall Meeting.

This change will be presented to the Board on February 9 to be voted upon and approved. It will then be brought to the club on February 16 for a vote. Once approved, our club may be seated at the SCR Conference in April.



Service Objectives

In an effort this year to shorten the time organizations must wait for their awards, our club voted to distribute funds in February rather than wait until May. We were looking forward to a huge Celebration of Service with all in attendance where we could meet the recipients, hear about their projects and enjoy an evening of good food and socializing.



But COVID has other ideas...

Instead of getting together in person, we are being forced to once again distribute the funds via US postal service, and lots of email back and forth.

Your Service Objectives Committee made up of Jerri Cofran, Marie Parker, Marcia Boutz, Rosemary Moran, Norma McKelvy, Heather Rollins and Kay Stewart presented a slate of eighteen organizations requesting funds for projects that would help women and girls achieve their goals. Their projects encompass a wide array of need, age and diversity. SIKC wholeheartedly approved of the slate.

We are pleased to announce grants to the following organizations:

- * **Bridge Leadership Academy**/Tutoring and leadership training for 30 girls.
- * **Child Abuse Prevention Association**/Funding their Healthy Families program.
- * **Cultivate KC, Inc.**/The Juniper Gardens training Farm for refugees.
- * **Flourish Furnishings, Inc.**/Purchasing small appliances for 208 families.
- * **Hillcrest Transitional Housing**/Sponsoring apartment for a homeless family.
- * **Hope House, Inc.**/Sponsoring legal needs for safety and support of victims.
- * **Jackson County CASA**/Monthly workshops for Youth in Care.
- * **Keeler Women's Center**/Emergency assistance for women in need.
- * **Madam President Camp, Inc.**/Funding 10 scholarships for girls unable to pay.
- * **Mother's Refuge/ Education**/transportation & internet needs for teen mothers.
- * **Nurture KC**/Providing Covid and other vaccines for homeless.
- * **Rightfully Sewn**/Funding for their Seamstress Training Program for refugees.
- * **Safehome, Inc.**/Providing food for 120 families.
- * **The Salvation Army**/Funding medical, dental, and nutritional needs for women.
- * **Shepherd's Center**/Funding rental space for Adventures in Learning for one year.
- * **Sisters in Christ**/ Automotive apprentice program for homeless women.
- * **The Whole Person, Inc.**/ Training ASL tutors for 25 deaf girls.
- * **Veronica's Voice, Inc.**/ Outreach resources for trafficked women.

Congratulations to all recipients.

Bridge Leadership Academy

Bridge Leadership Academy would like to highlight Sydney

Sydney's Interview:

What skill did you learn that you can take with you to your future employment?

"Something that I took away from this experience was time management and I worked on money planning. Since I am a student, while I was getting paid, I tried to save most of my payments so that I can use them for future needs. I also was able to learn how to communicate with my employers, different ways of communication work for different people. Calling someone may work a lot better than texting them."

What was the most and least pleasant work task?

"The most pleasant work task was doing projects on the computer. I was able to do it at my own pace while also having a time limit. Although I had set information that I needed to put in the system, I had control. The least pleasant task would have to be calling people. I have very bad social anxiety and sometimes it would get worse when I would have to call clients."

Is this work experience changing your career goals? How so?

"I would say that this experience helped me confirm my future career goals. I want to teach or be a baker. Both are on different spectrums of career paths but it did give me more help with being able to learn how to communicate better with others. And I hope in the future that I will be able to be better at communication."



Sydney working at Your Natural Image Salon as part of the Bridge's Leadership and Job Readiness Program. Her job duties included providing great customer service, answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, stocking, taking inventory and more.



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Bits and Pieces



Your Service Objectives Committee finishing up their selections and snacks one afternoon in December. Fun Stuff.

L-R: Kay Stewart, Jerri Cofran, Norma McKelvy, Rosemary Moran, Marie Parker, and Marcia Boutz.

Missing:
Heather Rollins

Your Ways & Means Committee will be announcing an exciting new fundraiser very soon.

Watch your email for an event we can all get behind.

It promises to be mouthwatering!





Soroptimist History (Stuart Morrow Bows Out)



As Stuart Morrow was organizing clubs in the Midwest, clubs along the Pacific coast began to consider the idea of forming some type of federation to bring the clubs into closer association with each other. With Morrow's assent, the nine clubs along the Pacific coast met in Oakland, CA, in August 1926 to consider whether, and how, to federate. The consensus of the meeting was to federate, and to obtain from Morrow all rights to the Soroptimist name and chartering of new clubs. Violet Richardson Ward was instructed to contact Stuart Morrow and request that he make a proposition to relinquish complete control of Soroptimist. The delegates decided to invite representatives from all Soroptimist clubs in North America and Europe to a meeting in San Francisco in 1927, where Morrow's proposal would be considered. It was referred to in printed reports as "The First International Conference of the Soroptimist Clubs of the World." Two major themes dominated the conference—determining a way to separate the organization from Stuart Morrow, and establishing an international alliance of clubs.

Morrow tendered three offers to the Soroptimist delegates. After some debate, delegates decided to pursue a complete buy-out. A committee was appointed to negotiate with Stuart Morrow—who had personally welcomed the delegates to the conference earlier in the day. The negotiating committee was instructed to try to reduce Morrow's \$6,000 figure. They returned the next day with an option agreement from Morrow, who consented to a settlement within 30 days for \$5,500. Soroptimists' accepted the settlement and proceeded to pro-rate the cost between the clubs. It was decided that no club would be penalized because of inability to pay.

With the Soroptimist name exclusively in the hands of its members, the delegates turned their attention to crafting a constitution and bylaws. The delegates envisioned an international alliance of clubs, and a simple constitution, drawn in accordance with Roberts Rules, was approved. The international constitution outlined the method of admitting members; fees and dues; nomination and election of officers and their duties; national councils and their powers and duties; committees; quorums; and voting bodies and delegates. Another committee determined that a uniform membership pin was preferable to the individualized pins each club had designed. The clubs were instructed to submit designs for a permanent organization emblem and pin to be chosen at the 1928 convention. The final bit of business at the 1927 convention was to establish Regions and Region Directors for the main geographic areas of the Americas—North Atlantic, Midwestern, Northwestern, South Central and Southwestern. Soroptimist was launched!

(Continued on next page.....)



Continued.....SOROPTIMIST IS LAUNCHED!!!!



Soroptimist was launched!

To put this event into perspective, the 1920's were significant for women around the world.

- * 1920 Ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.*
- * 1920 The League of Women Voters is formed.*
- * 1920 Eleanor Roosevelt becomes her husband's representative when he is crippled by polio.*
- * 1921 Canada's federal Parliament in Ottawa gets its first woman member following the election of Agnes Mcphail as representative of the United Farmers of Ontario.*
- * 1922 Japanese schoolteachers obtain maternity leave but only a minority of pregnant working teachers take the maximum time off permitted before the birth of a child.*
- 1923 The first birth control clinic opens in New York City, NY.*
- 1926 Gertrude Ederle is the first woman to swim across the English Channel.*
- 1928 Alice Paul founds the World Party for Equal Rights for Women.*

(to be continued.....SI Kansas City starts making history.)

