



The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 95 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region

SOROPTIMIST®

November 2021

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message Heather Rollins



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Kay Stewart, Editor

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Soroptimist International
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Good day and Happy November,

Today I'm feeling inspired based on my activities and events over the last 30 days. I think about empowerment and what it means to be empowered and how it feels to help others to feel empowered. During our last business meeting, I shared my first experience from the 2021 South Central Region Fall Meeting. Although the numbers were down due to Covid, I was truly happy I was able to attend on behalf of our club. There were several discussions about improving the meeting for next year and what do we see as valuable. We discussed generational gaps and learned quite a bit from Kim Mendoza on how to keep Generation Z engaged. So this month, I think about engagement, involvement, and how will SI of Kansas City look within 5 year, 10 year, or the next 100 years. SIA celebrated 100 years this past September and that in itself is amazing. We are all dedicated to a great organization and we have had some amazing accomplishments.

Congratulations again to all of you for achieving the Gold Level for the District I Challenge as well as a certificate of appreciation recognition given during the Fall Meeting. I applaud all of you as we continue to support each other as we venture into the 'new' normal.

Mark your calendars!! The SIA's 47th Biennial Convention will be held in Seoul, South Korea, on July 20-23, 2022. As plans come together for the 47th Biennial Convention, please check out this video shared by SIA! <https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/whats-new/2020/2022-convention.html>

Don't be afraid.

Be focused.

Be determined.

Be hopeful.

Be empowered.

~Michelle Obama

Warm regards,

Heather Rollins, President of SI-KC

Don't forget Christmas Angels!
Details on Page 3.



November Calendar



November 6

Power of the Purse Fire Sale

Charleston's Restaurant
(see next page for details)
Noon to 2:00 p.m.

November 10

Board Meeting

Blue Cross Blue Shield
2301 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64108
6:00 p.m.

November 17

Business Meeting

O'Neill's Restaurant
5:30 p.m.



November Birthdays

Norma McKelvy November 10
Margaret Smith November 21
Danielle Sidney November 24

Business Meeting, Wednesday, November 17

O'Neill's Restaurant

9417 Mission Road

Leawood, KS 66206

5:30 Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Meeting

Menu

Full plated dinner

\$20.00

Program

Tanya Johannes

Everything you ever wanted to know about the Forgotten
Angels but were afraid to ask....

Collection

Toys for the Salvation Army Forgotten Angels

Please RSVP to Marie Parker
by COB Monday, November 15

Ladies, this year we don't have little paper angels to carry into the toy department, but that doesn't make this tradition any less fun. If you want to carry on our annual project of helping our Forgotten Angels, please bring a toy, any toy (except for nerf guns, or anything that could hurt someone) to our November business meeting. It is strictly voluntary on your part. The toys will be taken to The Salvation Army in time for distribution to children the first week in December. No need to wrap. Santa will take care of that chore.



Power of the Purse



Saturday, November 6, 2021

Recruitment and Power of the Purse Fire Sale Mixer

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Charleston's Restaurant, 8817 State Line.

Right where the old Dillard's Store was at Ward Parkway Shopping Center

If you haven't invited your friends yet, please do so right away.

Saturday is coming up quick.

Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks/tea will be provided.

We're looking forward to a good turn out and a fun time!

There is a large selection of gently used purses, totes, evening bags, and billfolds.

Prices for the items range from \$10-\$15.

Oh, and don't forget to wear your name tag and Soroptimist pin.



Together in Motion

47th SOROPTIMIST
Biennial Convention

Seoul, South Korea • July 20-23, 2022

SAVE THE DATE
Let's all plan to go!



SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

COMBINED SOROPTIMIST CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

SI Kansas City Northland, SI Kansas City, SI Liberty

& maybe SI St. Joseph

Conrad's in Liberty 6:00 Happy Hour 7:00 Dinner

Details to come!



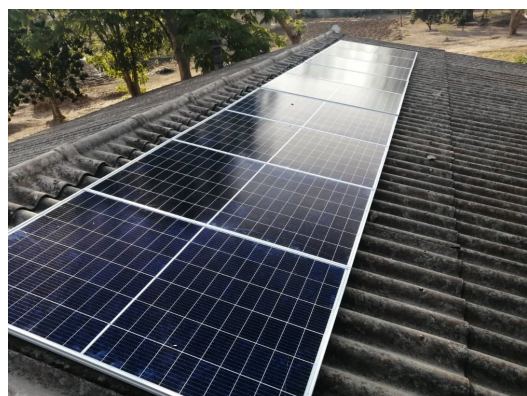
SI Harare Solar Panel Project for SODA

Your Service Objectives Committee, acting with the approval of the club, sent \$10,000 to SI Harare, Zimbabwe to install solar panels at SODA to provide power to pump water from their borehole to assist with their gardening. Their garden and chickens sustain them with food and some surplus to sell to help pay for utilities and supplies. The Society of Destitute Aged is a residential facility for the elderly who have no where else to go. SI Harare has been helping to support them for many years.

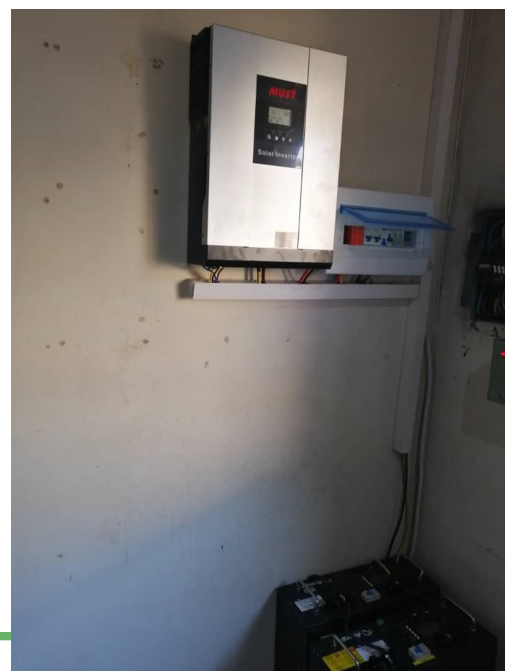
SI Harare's president Miriam Mukorombindo, has been kind enough to send us photos of the work to make SODA self sustaining.



Erecting the framework. Our friend Shirley Suter is right in the middle of everything.



Solar Panel Installation



It is spring in Zimbabwe, time to prepare the land for planting. The water from the well will offset the drought that has been going on for the last few years.



Farming in Zimbabwe



Rabbits and chickens are a successful crop.



Some of the fields to be planted.



We are so proud of our Friendship Link, SI Harare. They are an amazing group of women working against impossible odds to make life better for women and girls in their country.

SI Harare and The Traditional Birthing Attendants

Email from Shirley Suter, October 20, 2021

Hi Kay. I thought you may like to see the following pictures of a ceremony at the Epworth Mission, celebrating the Traditional Birth Attendants receiving their legal certificates as fully trained mid wives. Our club have been supporting and training them for many, many years, and 22 of the ladies have passed their final tests. Miriam and I went together last Wednesday, and I was asked to present the certificates to the ladies. I felt very honored to be able to do this. I rather stood out like a sore thumb, being the only white lady there!!! It was a lovely fun day.

On our way home, Miriam and I went to visit Jennifer, my closest friend and a Sorop for 31 years, who recently had an operation after a fall at home, and is now permanently resident at a Retirement Home for old folk.

We had our first rain fall of the season on Monday, and my garden has taken on a new lease of life. Unfortunately it was a one day wonder, but we all hope it won't be too long before the rain season starts in earnest.

I sincerely hope you are well, as am I, and taking good care of yourself in these very difficult times. We have gone back to level 2 as far as restrictions go, so I'm enjoying being able to see my friends again. This Saturday, our club will have our monthly meeting at my home again, so I'm looking forward to that. Cheers. Load as of love. Shirley.

Editors note: SI Kansas City has helped to support their work with the TBA's in the past.



By Laws Changes (Vote by club to approve on November 17)

Bylaws changes October, 2021

On July 21, 2021 the club voted to eliminate the following committees and make them appointed positions by the current president. As a result our club bylaws should be updated to reflect these changes.

Rationale: They are not actual committees as the “chair” has the sole responsibility of making sure the responsibilities of the position are carried out.

Language to be eliminated: ARTICLE VIII, Committees

“**Attendance**—Contact members for regular meetings and special events; make dinner reservations and menu selections”

“**Communication**—Responsible for editing, publishing and distributing the club’s newsletter, “The Sign Post”. Responsible for delivering club records as directed by the board to the University of Missouri-Kansas City archives for filing. Responsible for notifying members of any news that needs to be distributed.”

“**International Goodwill & Understanding**—Promote and support all Soroptimist programs which develop a spirit of friendship and contribute to international understanding, communicate with Friendship Links, and explore the possibility of working with them on a common project or goal.”

The **Audit committee** does not need to be eliminated as it is already a designated appointed position spelled out in our bylaws.

The Ruby Award was discontinued a few years ago. The language in the bylaws should be eliminated.

ARTICLE VIII, Committees, Awards

“**The Ruby Award. 1.** The Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women – To honor women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work and implement the Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women.”

Language to be inserted: ARTICLE VIII, Committees

Rationale: These are one person jobs. No committee needed for completion.

Section 7: The president shall appoint the following positions. Attendance, Communications (The Signpost and History), and International Goodwill & Understanding. The appointed person shall serve for one year and report progress to the board and club on a regular basis.

“**Attendance**—Contact members for regular meetings and special events; make dinner reservations and menu selections. Search out new venues for meetings if required and make recommendations to the board and club.”

“**Communication**—Responsible for editing, publishing and distributing the club’s newsletter, “The Sign Post”. Responsible for delivering club records as directed by the board to the University of Missouri-Kansas City archives for filing. Responsible for notifying members of any news that needs to be distributed.”

“**International Goodwill & Understanding**—Promote and support all Soroptimist programs which develop a spirit of friendship and contribute to international understanding, communicate with Friendship Links, and explore the possibility of working with them on a common project or goal.”

ARTICLE IV, Officers, Section 5, Duties of Officers, Treasurer

Rationale: The club does not currently require a bond for the club treasurer.

“The club does not require a bond on the treasurer.”

Meet Jassma Thomas

When Jassma decides she is going to do something, she does it! As our 2020 Live Your Dream grant recipient, she looked around at the women in our club, decided she liked what she saw and joined us as a new member.

This bright eyed young woman with the beautiful smile has had many challenges in her life but you wouldn't know it to look at her. She is strong, determined and knows what she wants out of life. She was drawn to our club because she feels a purpose to help others, particularly young women. She wants to take part in our Dream It Be It program so she can be a mentor to others.

Growing up in Helena, Arkansas, she moved to Independence in 2019. Jassma has four children ages, ten, eleven, seventeen and twenty. They are a strong family and make her proud.

Jassma has a new position with Summit Achievement Center in North Kansas City.

She is working with nonverbal autistic children up to the age of 18. Behavioral issues keep them out of the school system. She has been working in this field since 2013. She has a BA from Ashford University. She will complete her Masters in Board Certified Behavior Analysis at Simmons University in January, 2022.



Welcome Jassma. We are so glad you joined us!



Watch your mailbox for a special appeal from your Foundation...

November is national philanthropy month and ushers in the season of giving. The Board of Trustees of the Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation (SKCF), invite every Soroptimist International of Kansas City (SIKC) member to make a generous year-end, tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation by December 31, 2021.

Any size gift will be deeply appreciated .

Fall Meeting

From District I Director, Leigh Hedgepeth...

We had a fabulous weekend in Oklahoma City just a week ago. While our attendance numbers were still down we managed to have a lot of fun and share lot of information with each other. District III Director Teresa Young, District II Director Ruth Parman and myself shared hosting duties thought out the event. We had speakers on communication thru the generations and Mental Health. Both delivered some great information for not just our Soroptimist clubs, but for our lives.

Friday night was all about fun with the Soroptimist speakeasy bringing out lots of flapper girls, a few unsavory types, gangsters, who actually behaved themselves, an advocate for women's voting and a tipsy nun that kept trying to get the gangsters to reform.

District meetings went well and lots of information was shared. Dreams In Action presentations were made and voted on. Now we have to wait until April to see what the winning entry is. Four clubs received District challenge Award certificates and candy to share with their club members. Thank you one and all for your participation.



SIKC Flappers L-R: Marcia Boutz, Governor Grace Boswell, Danielle Sidney, Norma McKelvy, Kay Stewart, Grace Kim, President Heather Rollins and Rosemary Moran.



Fall Meeting



Unsavoury nun, Jacquie Bond; Gangsters Kimberly Doty and Angela Standish, Governor Elect, SI Dallas



Governor Grace Boswell and District III Director Teresa Young, SI Plainview



District I Director, Leigh Hedgepeth, SI Vandalia

Fall Meeting—Down To Business



Governor Grace welcoming everyone.



SCR Treasurer, Marcia Boutz giving the treasurer's report.



President Heather accepting an award on behalf of SIKC.

SIKC club all dressed up for Saturday night's festivities.

