

# The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 97 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City  
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® June 2023

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



## President's Message Melanie Simpson



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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

This year has really flown by, how can it be June already? I just must mention what a wonderful Celebration of Service Awards meeting we had last month. It was so great to be all together again in person to see old friends and meet new ones and the food was outstanding as always.

As usual we have lots going on this month. We will have our traditional combined Board and Business meeting, but it will be on Saturday this year, June 17, from 10-2:00 at the South Kansas City, KS Public Library in Argentine. The agenda for the meeting will include year-end committee reports and choosing committee members and chairs for next year, so think about where your time and talents could best serve the club to be prepared with your decisions. The rest of the meeting will be a planning session for the upcoming year (with a working lunch). If you have an idea for a fundraiser, an organization we should partner with, or a fun cultural event, this will be the time to share and get it on our schedule. We hope to have the whole year planned and ready to go so everyone can put it on their schedule.

The Foundation will have their meeting on June 19 to prepare for the upcoming club year. June 21 will be the installation of new officers at Hereford House in Leawood, so please plan to attend this special evening and celebrate your new leadership.

For my final President's message, I just want to share how grateful I am to each one of you for stepping up and making this a productive year for the club, not to mention fun and memorable.

Thank you all,  
President Melanie

## June Calendar



### **Combined Board & Business Meeting**

June 17, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
South Kansas City, KS Library  
3104 Strong Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66106

### **Foundation Meeting**

June 19, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Shepherd's Center  
9200 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64114

### **Installation of Officers**

June 21, 2023  
5:40 p.m.  
Hereford House  
Town Center Plaza  
5001 Town Center Drive  
Leawood, KS 66211

### **Community Service Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care**

June 24, 2023  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m..  
12000 Wornall Road.  
Kansas City, MO 64145



### June Birthdays

Candy Routledge June 1  
Shirley Suter June 29

## June Combined Board & Business Meeting

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

South Kansas City Library  
3104 Strong Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(Directions on page 7)

### ***Lunch will be served.***

Sub Ham or Turkey Sandwich Tray  
Fruit and Veggie Tray  
Cookie Tray

Bottled water will be provided.

If you wish a different drink, please bring your own.

Cost: \$8.00

RSVP to Marie Parker at  
attendance@kcsoroptimist.org  
or marieparker22@gmail.com  
816-769-8398

no later than Wednesday, June 14.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Installation of Officers

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**5:30 p.m.**

Hereford House  
Town Center Plaza  
5001 Town Center Drive  
Leawood, KS 66211

Cost: \$43.00

Full Menu on page 4.

As always, please RSVP to Marie Parker  
with your selection  
no later than Friday, June 16..

## Year End Report Guidelines

Our June Combined Board & Business Meeting is our annual meeting during which committee chairs present their year end report to the club. Please bring three copies. One for the secretary, one for the incoming president and one for the new chair of your committee.

### Year End Report Guidelines

To: Committee Chairmen and Officers

End of year reports due by June 17, 2023

Please bring three copies, one for your president, one for the secretary, and one for the new committee chair.

Please include the following items as applicable:

- Committee name and membership
- Accomplishments / activities
- Awareness, advocacy, action roles
- Hours devoted to these activities
- Dollars spent / income
- Recommendations for next year's committee chair
- Anything else you would like to add

These reports are important to our Club for several reasons:

- Gives us credit for our accomplishments in our own eyes.
- Inform higher levels of our accomplishments. (Federation Club Award of Excellence)
- Provides a common thread from year to year to help new leaders.
- Provides a history for our Club.
- Provides new members an education of our structure, purpose, and accomplishments.
  - Gives them something to identify with, live up to, and provide a challenge to go even further.

We need everyone's contributions. They should be complete, yet concise.

Please call **President Melanie Simpson** or **President Elect Margaret Smith** if you have any questions.

**Service and Sharing – Soroptimist Success**

## Installation of Officers

On Wednesday, April 21, 2023 we will hold our Installation Ceremony with dinner at the Hereford House in Leawood, KS.

Social time: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 7:00 p.m.

The following officers will be installed:

### **SIKC Board**

President—Margaret Smith

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

### **Menu Selection**

- 1) **5 oz Bacon Wrapped Beef Tenderloin** grilled over hickory charcoal;
- 2) **Barbecue Chicken** hickory grilled chicken breast with house-made BBQ sauce;  
***\*\*The two entrees above are served with garden salad, seasonal vegetables, and mashed potatoes.***
- 3) **Outlaw Pasta** fettuccine pasta tossed with red bell peppers, broccoli, alfredo sauce, topped with shrimp.

***\*The Outlaw Pasta does not include additional side items.***

Bread, water, coffee and iced tea are included

The meal cost is \$43.00. This includes the entree, tax and a 20% gratuity.

We are looking forward to another wonderful celebration together!



## Committee News

### FLOURISH FURNISHINGS FUN

Melanie Simpson, her husband Doug, Kay Stewart, her son Bill, Tanya Johannes, her daughter Caitlin, Marie Parker and Jerri Cofran volunteered at Flourish Furnishings last month helping with a variety of activities including moving items to the loading dock for transport, putting together IKEA dressers, dish sets, a variety of sewing activities, and being part of being with a client as they selected items for their new home.

To quote Marie Parker, "The combined efforts of the passionate volunteers working and seeing firsthand the impact on those families who suffered homelessness the day I was there was truly an impactful experience."



Photo: Marie Parker, Caitlin Miller and Tanya Johannes, volunteers with Flourish Furnishings Bank, and Jerri Cofran.

### 2026 SCR CONFERENCE PLANNING

Your 2026 SCR Conference Planning is enjoying plotting and planning a dynamite 100th anniversary of our club. April 2026 sounds a long way away, but the time will pass quickly. We will keep you posted as we proceed. We will need everyone in the club to be involved at



some point. Your committee consists of L-R: Marie Parker, Tanya Johannes, Jerri Cofran, Marcia Boutz, Kay Stewart, Grace Boswell and Lynn LeCount.

## Community Service

Remember when we had so much fun preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House?

Well, Covid and RMC Corporate took that opportunity away.  
But now, our Community Service Committee has found a new place to try.

How about a **Fiesta Night** Themed Dinner?  
Everyone loves tacos and fajitas, right?



Place: Kansas City Hospice House and Palliative Care  
12000 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Danielle Sidney will be sending out a sign up sheet via email soon for us to let her know what we would like to bring.

Be sure to save your receipts for reimbursement.

Suggestions:

Anything with a Hispanic twist.

Tacos

Fajitas

Taco Salad

Mexican Corn Relish

Guacamole and Tortilla Chips

Flan or Sopa Pias



Unfortunately, we cannot serve margaritas,  
but non-alcoholic margaritas would be good.

***Be creative, use your imagination.  
Get out those maracas and let's party.***



## Combined Board & Business Meeting on June 17

As someone who has always loved exploring new places, I encourage you to do the same if you have not ever been to the **Argentine area of Kansas City, Kansas**. Argentine has a fascinating history of Irish, Polish and other immigrants settling that area in the late 1800-early 1900's.

Now it is home to the mainly Hispanic community and is truly that, a community.

They have a brand new beautiful library overlooking the KAW river that is ready to welcome us to hold our June 17 Combined Board and Business meeting. It will be a great cultural event.

This meeting will combine the last board meeting of the 2022-2023 club year, as well as hearing the Year End reports from each of our current committee chairs.

We will select which committees we wish to serve on and/or chair.

If you haven't thought about it, you should prior to the meeting. It is important that everyone choose something to commit to for the upcoming club year.

Finally, we will lay out our plans for fundraisers, cultural and special events, community service projects and any other goals we have for the upcoming year.

**For a successful club year, we must have your input and support.**  
Please be sure to come.

South Kansas City, KS Public Library  
3104 Strong Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66106

### **Directions from the Overland Park area.**

I-35 North to I-635 (or Metcalf North becomes I-635)  
At Exit 231A, head on the ramp left and follow signs for I-635  
I-635 to Metropolitan Exit  
Right on Metropolitan to 32nd street.  
Left on 32nd street to Strong  
Right on Strong (Library will be on your left)

### **Directions from Kansas City, Raytown, Lee's Summit**

I-70 West to I-635|  
At Exit 231A, head on the ramp left and follow signs for I-635  
North on I-635 to Metropolitan Exit  
Right on Metropolitan to 32nd street.  
Left on 32nd street to Strong  
Right on Strong (Library will be on your left)



## Celebration of Service

On Wednesday, May 17, we held our favorite event of the year, our **Celebration of Service**, at Johnny Cascone's Italian Restaurant. We were able to provide grants totaling over \$72,000 to eighteen deserving organizations that serve women and girls in our community. Our Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation has been providing grants since 1954 and has given away \$1,309,000 during that time. We are grateful that those early members were so far-sighted creating what was then called the Welfare Fund to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.



President Melanie Simpson welcoming everyone.



Tanya Johannes giving the inspiration.





## Celebration of Service

This year's recipients were Bridge Leadership Academy, Cultivate KC, Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA), Flourish Furnishings Bank, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Hope House, Jackson County CASA, KC CARE Clinic, KC Shepherd's Center, Keeler Women's Center, Madam President Camp, Mother's Refuge, Baby Grace, Safehome, The Salvation Army, The Single Mom KC, Transition Zone, Inc., and The Whole Person.





# WHAT A NIGHT!!



Bridge Leadership Academy



Baby Grace

Cultivate KC



Flourish Furnishings Bank



KC Care Clinic



Hope House

Hillcrest  
Transitional  
Housing





# More Celebration of Service

Madam President  
Camp

Keeler Women's Center



Jackson County CASA



Mother's Refuge



The Salvation Army



KC Shepherd's Center



# And that's all folks!



Safehome

The Single Mom



Transition Zone, Inc.

Child Abuse Association (CAPA)



The Whole Person

Editor's Note:  
I truly did not mean to hog all the photos of our recipients. Lynn LeCount did a fabulous job as photographer that night. Since I was the MC, I wound up in a lot of the pics. It was an honor....