

# The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 97 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City  
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® October 2023

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message  
Margaret Smith, MD



Hello fellow Soroptimists,

Can you believe it is already October? I blinked my eyes and September was over.

We are preparing for our signature events- the Live Your Dream Awards and the Service Objectives Awards. This year we will be presenting the Live Your Dream Awards early, in an effort to get help to women students who are heads of households, before Christmas. Being a part of this committee over the years has been one of the many great experiences I have had as a Soroptimist!

I am proud of the work we do to support women and children in our community!

Thank you for your generous service!

Margaret L. Smith  
President 2023-2024

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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

South Central Region District Meeting  
this month!

October 20-22, 2023  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
See you there!

## October Calendar



### **Board Meeting**

October 11, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

### **Foundation Meeting**

October 16, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

### **Business Meeting**

October 18, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

### **SCR Region District Meeting**

October 20-22, 2023

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
(see The Call for details)



## October Birthdays

No birthdays this month.

Hummph!

No birthday cake either, huh?

## October Business Meeting

Wednesday October 18, 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**

#### **Chicken Tenders**

hand breaded, French fries, coleslaw and honey mustard

or

#### **Bleu Pine Salad**

Peanuts, oranges, tomatoes, red onion, red pepper,  
scallions, crispy wontons & bleu cheese crumbles.

Served with honey citrus vinaigrette. Includes dinner roll.

Brownie & Cookie Tray

**Cost - \$22**

(payable at the door)

### **Speaker**

#### **Ericka Mabion**

of the FIRST Lego League

(see page 8)

### **Collection**

**Girls Toddler size underwear and socks**

**Size 2T-6T**

**for SCR District Meeting Collection**

**RSVP to Marie Parker**

no later than Friday October 13.

# LaShawn Walker



Last month, LaShawn Walker, Founder, President and CEO of Suburban Balance, a Lee’s Summit based non-profit family organization that provides educational and cultural opportunities to suburban kids of color to help ensure they experience a well-balanced lifestyle while growing up in their suburban communities or attend schools that lack diversity. LaShawn founded the non-profit in 2012 and to date, more than 500 families from Missouri and Kansas have joined the organization, serving more than 1500 students!

The central idea of her address is that all organizations need to fundraise. Non-profits need to cooperate and utilize each other’s resources to achieve their goals. With that in mind, she shared her ideas regarding fundraising.

Her pillars of fundraising...

## LaShawn Walker’s Fall in Love with Fundraising



We welcome her ideas and look forward to the Ways & Means projects

## Meeting New/Old Friends at our last club meeting.

Several years ago, Jerri Cofran volunteered to be a phone buddy for one of Shepherd's Center's clients. Jerri was paired up with Betty Long. Over the years they have forged a delightful friendship, sharing their lives with each other and just generally enjoying each other's company. In all this time, they had never met in person despite them both living in the same city. One of the things Jerri learned about Betty is that her niece, LaShawn Walker, had founded and developed the Suburban Balance organization in Lee's Summit. Jerri learned more about LaShawn and followed up to bring LaShawn to us as a speaker.

What a fabulous development!

Not only did we get to meet LaShawn and her husband Mark, they brought Betty to dinner so she and Jerri could meet face to face. Jerri and Betty had a wonderful time seeing each other and our club enjoyed being present to witness the fun they were having.



Mark and LaShawn Walker



Jerri Cofran and Betty Long

## Two Community Service Events in September



On Saturday, September 23, several of our club members gathered to serve dinner to the families at **Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care**. We provided a baked potato bar with all the fixins...

The families really enjoyed it and our club members enjoyed preparing and serving. While a somber occasion with families dealing with various levels of grief, we provided a lighthearted respite for a little while.

Thanks to President Margaret, Rosemary Moran, Marie Parker, Tanya Johannes, Caitlin Miller, Jerri Cofran, and Norma McKelvy for providing a delicious meal to the families. And a special thanks to Dianne Young for providing two of her delicious pies.

They were scrumptious...



Our second Community Service Event took place on Saturday, September 30 at the Plaza Library. Several of our club members went through a basic review of **CPR training**. Andre Sidney, Red Cross Certified First Aid /CPR/AED instructor led us through the process.

He did an excellent job and brought us up to speed about the correct and incorrect way to provide first aid/CPR.

First and foremost “YOU! Call 911, go get an AED and first aid kit and COME BACK!”

Then start CPR!

Our participants were Tanya Johannes, Caitlin Miller, Nora Magee, Marcia Boutz, Elaine Fry, Danielle Sidney, Mysti Meiers, Grace Boswell, Rosemary Moran and Kay Stewart.



Thanks to Tanya and Caitlin for snacks and drinks.



## ByLaws Amendments Coming Up

Our ByLaws Chair, Marcia Boutz, is proposing some housekeeping changes to our ByLaws prior to sending them to the South Central Region for required bi-annual approval.

### **Per our current ByLaws, Article XII, Amendments.**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the club by two-thirds of a quorum as defined in Article 6, Section 4, provided notice of the proposed action has been given in writing to all members at least ten days prior thereto.

### Proposed changes:

#### **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI SOUTH CENTRAL REGION SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS BYLAWS**

Present:

#### **ARTICLE III**

Members

Section 2. Privileges of membership:

All members in good standing may be elected to or retain office and may serve as a delegate to Federation Convention, Region Conference, or Fall Meeting.

**New**

All members in good standing may be elected to or retain office and may serve as a delegate to Federation Convention, Region Conference, or District Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

Officers

Section 5. Duties of Officers.

The president is an “automatic” delegate to the Fall Meeting and the South Central Region Conference.

**New**

The president is an “automatic” delegate to the District Meeting and the South Central Region Conference.

The president-elect shall serve as delegate to Region Conference and Fall Meeting.

**New**

The president-elect shall serve as delegate to Region Conference and District Meeting.

## ByLaws Amendments continued...

The treasurer shall serve as delegate to Region Conference and Fall Meeting.

New

The treasurer shall serve as delegate to Region Conference and District Meeting.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### Committees

Section 1. The club committee chairs shall be appointed by the president with the assistance of the president -elect ~~and vice president~~. Each committee chair shall select their own committee members, taking in consideration any preference of the members. All members are expected to serve on a committee.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### Bonding

The Treasurer, and any other member responsible for funds, shall be bonded at the discretion of the Board of Directors ~~shall determine~~.

Submitted by the Laws and Resolution Committee, Marcia Boutz, Chairman

These bylaws changes will be submitted to the SIKC board on October 11 for review and approval.

Upon approval, the board will recommend the changes to the club on October 18. The club will vote at that time. A quorum is necessary to approve. Please plan on attending. Your vote is important.



## October Speaker



October speaker, Ericka Mabion, will introduce us to the FIRST Lego League, which is a course to attract young girls to STEM programs. The KCMO Public Schools received a grant earlier this year to incorporate her program into their curriculum.



Ericka honored by sitting in the Buck O'Neal seat at the Royals Stadium earlier this year.



The mission of FIRST® is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.