

The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 97 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® November 2023

Investing in Dreams



The Signpost

President's Message
Margaret Smith, MD



Greetings fellow Soroptimist!

Welcome to November! We are knee deep in fall- with the beautiful foliage on display and the sudden drop in temperatures.

November is one of my favorite months, it has my favorite holiday, not to mention that it is my birthday month. For me, November is a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewal.



A couple of weeks ago, a few of us had the opportunity to attend the Region meeting. I met Soroptimist from all over our Region, heard what they are doing in their clubs, had time to reflect, and came back with a renewed sense of purpose. I hope to share some insights I gained from the experience at our next business meeting.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the beginning of the holiday season, think about what you are grateful for and focus on that. I am grateful to be a member of an organization that supports women and children, to be a part of something bigger than myself. What are you grateful for?

Respectfully,

President Margaret

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Kay Stewart, Editor

www.kcsoroptimist.org

Soroptimist Kansas City Foundation
Soroptimist International
of Kansas City
1221 West 103rd #224
Kansas City, MO 64114



Save the Date!
December 3, 2023
SIKC Holiday Party
Watch your mail for your invitation

November Calendar



Board Meeting

November 8, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

Special & Cultural Events Meeting

November 11, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Panera
10229 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64114

Business Meeting

November 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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



November Birthdays

Norma McKelvy November 10

Margaret Smith November 21

Danielle Sidney November 24

November Business Meeting

Wednesday November 15, 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)

Cash Bar

Speaker

Hyunjin Seo

Transitioning Incarcerated Women
to Technical Careers

No Collection this month...

RSVP to Marie Parker

no later than Friday November 10.

Our Speaker for November

Hyunjin Seo is Oscar Stauffer Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at University of Kansas as well as founding director of the KU Center for Digital Inclusion. Her research examines how social collaborative networks facilitated by digital communication technologies affect social change at local, national and international levels. She is currently leading an interdisciplinary project aimed at offering evidence-based technology education to women transitioning from incarceration in Kansas and Missouri. The project is funded by National Science Foundation, Kansas Health Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and Google.



Former Member News



FIRST BLACK KCMO MAYOR PRO TEM HONORED WITH PROCLAMATION—Last Saturday at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center’s “A Conversation with the Elders,” KCMO Fifth District Councilwoman and newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw (left), presented a Mayoral Proclamation to the first black woman Mayor Pro Tem and former Acting Mayor Joanne Collins. Parks-Shaw is the second black woman to be appointed Mayor Pro Tem in the city’s history. *Photo/George Murphy*

Reprinted from August 24, 2023 edition of The Kansas City Globe..

Former SIKC member, Joanne Collins.

She is very active in the Kansas City community. We are proud of the service she has given to Kansas City and Soroptimist.

Bylaws Changes

From Bylaws Chair, Marcia Boutz.

“The Region Laws and Procedures Committee have not approved our bylaws because we did not define "member in good standing". I have copied the words that they want in our bylaws. (They are the red words.) The SIA guidelines do not have this line, but the chair of the region Laws and Procedures Committee is requiring this language.”

The Club Board will vote on this change at the board meeting and the members will vote at the November club meeting.

ARTICLE III

Members

Section 1. Classes: There shall be two classes of members as defined by Federation Bylaws, Article V: Regular and Life. Life members must have been designated as such prior to the date defined by SIA.

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.

(c) A member shall be considered in good standing if all financial obligations have been met.

Section 3. Admission to membership – Any member of this club may propose for membership any individual considered to be eligible. The new member shall be enrolled as a Soroptimist upon receipt of new member fees and dues. At the first club meeting attended or as soon as reasonably possible, the new member shall be inducted into the club and presented with materials pertaining to club membership.

Section 4. Attendance requirements—Regular attendance, leadership, responsibility and involvement in service projects are necessary to be a well-informed participating Soroptimist member.

Section 5. Termination of club membership—The following shall be reason for termination of membership:

- (a) resignation
- (b) failure to fulfill financial obligations within 60 days after due date
- (c) failure to maintain the requirements for membership
- (d) conduct which adversely reflects upon the Soroptimist organization.

No membership may be terminated for reasons other than resignation without the opportunity for a hearing before the board of directors after 30 days' written notice to the member. A two-thirds vote of the board is required for termination of membership when grounds for termination have been determined to exist. The decision of the board shall be final.

Districts Meeting Report 2023 from Governor Elect Leigh Hedgpeth

The 2023 District Meeting is now complete. 90 members and 2 guests attended the meeting. The meeting theme was “No Place Like Home”. On Friday evening the “Tater Sisters” came for a visit. There was Dic Tater, Mama Gravi Tater, Spec Tater, Agi Tater, Imi Tater, Hesi Tater, Commin Tater and their cousin Par Tissi Pater. Fun was had by all the Tater Sisters played by Region soroptimist members. The skit, that brought forth our “problem” members in a fun and non-threatening way, was very well received. And we kept hearing references to Agi Tater and Hesi Tater throughout the weekend.

Districts met in their respective meeting to see Dreams In Action presentation and vote for their favorite. Club information was shared and also included in the program of the meeting which every attendee received. The last item of business was an open discussion on the increase in the “mandatory Convention Fee” from \$550 last biennium to \$800 this biennium.

At lunch Saturday we had Mrs. Carol Hefner of the Oklahoma Commission on the status of women. She was a wonderful speaker of Lebanese descent. Her grandparents came here thru Ellis Island and settled in Oklahoma. She said I guess they saw all the sand and thought they were home. Now 2 generations later the family is an important part of the Oklahoma Real Estate business. Her advice “Invest in land” She loves the song “Buy Dirt”. Her other message was don’t be afraid to take a chance. Lebanese women are not encouraged to be active in business. But by taking a chance, she is now the CEO of her family’s real estate business. And she met her husband, gave up a chance to be a world journalist and married him within 2 months! They have now been married 40 years with 5 kids and several grandkids.

The workshop was “Home Improvement”. We discussed our clubs “curb appeal”, Pain points, and how others perceive us. There was lots of discussion about each topic and a lot of good information was shared. The interaction between the clubs was great.

We had a service project as part of our Districts meeting. Clubs donated socks, underwear, pj’s and play clothes to Angel’s Ministry for young girls going to a new foster home. Thank you all for the wonderful donations.

Saturday night we had two members of the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers perform. They are a group of tribal members who perform in their native dance clothes.

Members were encouraged to submit names to the Region Nominations committee for Region officers in 2024- 2026. Nominating committee chair is Kelly Fogarty, members of the committee are Sandy Maag, Christina Tanner and Teresa Young. Please contact any of these four ladies with the names of people you would like to see holding our Region offices.

Districts Meeting from SIKC Viewpoint

Governor Elect Leigh wrote such a good synopsis of our SCR Districts meeting, there was no reason to ask our delegates to write a report. Delegates President Margaret, Tanya Johannes and Grace Boswell did an excellent job representing our club and attended all sessions and workshops. Additional SIKC attendees were Marcia Boutz, SCR Treasurer, and Kay Stewart.



Marcia Boutz and Tanya Johannes enjoying conversation with Governor Elect Leigh Hedgpeth.

Tanya Johannes taking part in the “Home Improvement” workshop.



Oklahoma Fancy Dancers



“Wow, Look at those shoes!”

Tanya went one way.....Caitlin went another...

Recently Tanya Johannes and daughter Caitlin Miller went on vacation to different parts of the country. Each loved the chance to catch up with an old friend and enjoy a break from every day routine.



Tanya and Joyce Schau at Maine's oldest lighthouse.

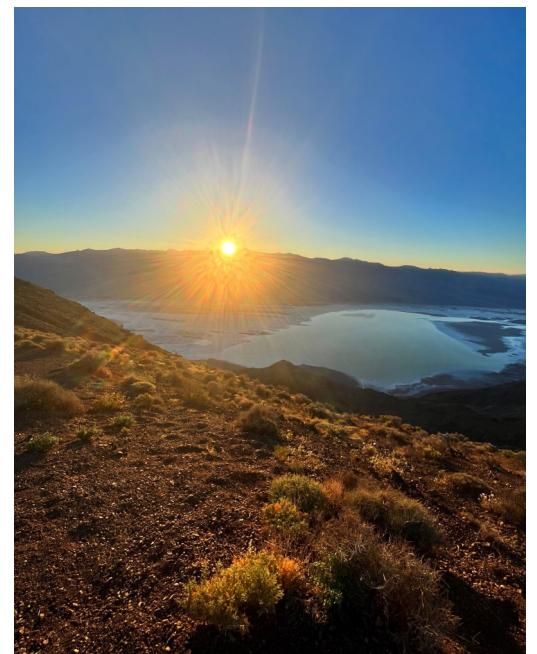
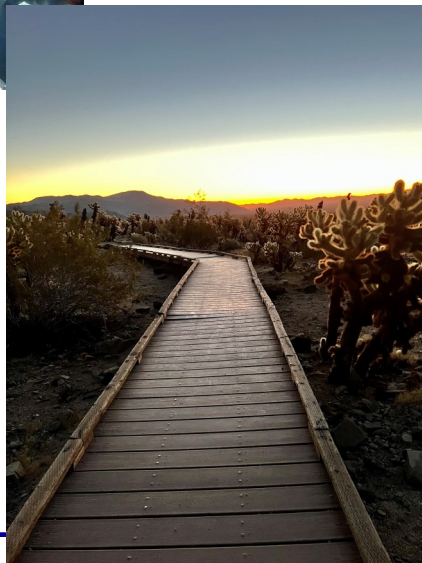


On top of the Green Mountains in New Hampshire in ice and snow.



Caitlin went the opposite direction with her friend Lindsey Etter to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Park.

Below L-R: Valley of Fire, Cactus Garden in Joshua Tree, Sunset in Death Valley.



Member Honors and Committee News

Recently Melanie Simpson was recognized for her work at the Cancer Action Breakfast - Champions for Survivorship. Congratulations Melanie! Well deserved!



Your Foundation Trustees at their October meeting...

L-R: Norma McKelvy, Marie Parker, Candy Routledge, and Marcia Boutz.

Not shown: Jerri Cofran, Melanie Simpson, Margaret Smith, Tanya Johannes, and Danielle Sidney.

