

The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 99 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® November 2025

Investing in Dreams



The Signpost

President's Message Mysti Meiers



November is a time to pause and reflect on what we're thankful for. This year, I am especially grateful to be part of Soroptimist for the past eight years. It's been such a joy and honor to work alongside passionate, purpose-driven women who share the same vision of helping women and girls thrive in our community.

Our club is filled with diverse experiences and perspectives, some of us bring insights from other Soroptimist clubs, while others from the region or SIA levels. Each of these experiences adds incredible value. Together, we form a strong, collaborative team that blends fresh ideas with the traditions and processes that make Soroptimist so meaningful. It's this teamwork that will carry us confidently into the next 100 years.

This month also brings **National Philanthropy Day on November 15th**. A moment to celebrate the power of generosity and the people who make positive change possible. SIKC has been deeply impacted by many contributors through our donors, volunteers, and each of you who give your time, energy, and heart to our mission. Every effort matters, and I want to thank you all for being part of that impact.

We're also fortunate to have a professional fundraiser among our members and as our Ways & Means Chair. I'm excited about the creative plans ahead and grateful for the collaboration between committees this year as we honor our 100 year anniversary, **Service Objective awardees** and **Live Your Dream recipients** at the Bloom & Brunch fundraiser in May 2026. This kind of teamwork showcases the very best of who we are as Soroptimists - supportive to our member's efforts and dedicated to lifting others up.

Thank you for your continued passion, partnership, and support. Together, we make a difference. And together, we will continue to empower women and girls for generations to come.

President Mysti

**Don't forget to turn your clocks back on
November 2.**



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www.kcsoroptimist.org

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November Calendar



Board Meeting

November 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

via Zoom

Business Meeting

November 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Brewbakers Bar & Grill

9482 Renner Blvd,

Lenexa, KS 66219

2026 Conference Committee meeting w/ Hilton Airport staff

2:00 p.m.



Happy
Thanksgiving!

November Business Meeting Wednesday, November 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Brewbaker's Bar & Grill

9842 Renner Road

Lenexa, KS 66219

Menu

[de16ea7e-bab3-4a20-9ad8-0c7a0a936cac-pdf](#)

Click on the link above for the full menu.

No restrictions on what you order.

Cash Bar

Program

Terri E. Barnes of The Nia Project Kansas City will be our speaker. The organization works to support projects that enable Black women and girls to build confidence and increase their opportunities for success. **Black Women Get Fit (BWGF)** is their signature program.

Our Service Objectives project awarded them a grant this year.

RSVP to

Attendance@KCSoropimist.org

by Monday, November 17 with your meal choice.

All will be billed separately.



Community Service

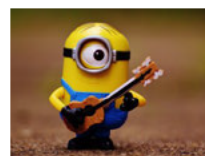
Submitted by Tanya Johannes, Community Service Chair

Please remember your support letters for breast cancer survivors and female veterans for our November club meeting. We have 22 cancer support letters and 14 veteran letters, let's add to that and shower them with thoughtfulness!

We are confirmed with Don Bosco for holiday collections. We are supporting their agency holiday shop, which will serve up to 250 families this Christmas season. It is designed for parents to shop for their families; items are to be new and unwrapped and are needed no later than December 11th. The committee service committee will be happy to collect holiday items at the November meeting, as well as set up collection times in early December.



Pots & Pan Sets
Plates and Bowls sets
Drinking glasses
Toys for boys and girls (any age)
Games with easy instructions for any age
Balls, frisbees, other outdoor toys
Puzzles, Legos, building blocks, craft projects, or art supplies
Dolls – ethnic if possible
Kids coats
Hair accessory or nail polish kits
Towels – bath and kitchen
Bed pillows



We may have an opportunity to assist in the shopping experience for families, that information is not yet confirmed.

Food insecurity is a rising concern in our communities. Many families are impacted by the potential loss in SNAP benefits, and when you combine that with the ever-rising cost of groceries, the situation worsens. If you feel moved to assist families in our community, please click the link and review the options shared by our past Celebration of Service recipient agencies. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rfmUAFv6-5ZG4SFqBofKfWQIlxfnk1ccZP0TmO7V3rE/edit?usp=sharing>



Committee Activity

Public Relations Update:

Our PR group has been working on the technical end of transitioning to the Google Drive for digital file sharing, creating an invoice system for new members (Thank you Candy and Mysti for handling this with Lynn & Growth and Retention), and merging all social media accounts under our new Gmail account. Please remember to check the support opportunities document for any upcoming events. If you have any you'd like added to the document, please let me know. As always, please provide any updates you'd like shared across our platforms.

Thanks,

Caitlyn Miller
PR Committee Chair
Support Opportunities Document Link:



Service Objectives Awards

Soroptimist International of Kansas City has opened up this year's grant process.

To apply for a grant, please go to www.kcsoroptimist.org to view the funding criteria and application.

Applications are due January 27 with awards to be made in May, 2026.

If there is a project you want to fulfill, need funds for it, and it advances the status of women and/or girls, please consider applying.

Thank you.

Norma McKelvy
Service Objectives Chair

Live Your Dream

**APPLY NOW - APPLICATION
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!**

Soroptimist International of Kansas City is part of a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International of Kansas City is a century-old professional women's organization with a mission to empower women and girls to overcome financial insecurity.

The Live Your Dream Award is Soroptimist International of the Americas' signature program. Each year, more than \$3 million is disbursed through the Live Your Dream Awards program to more than 2,300 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles, including poverty, domestic violence, the death of a spouse, or substance abuse.

The award provides women who serve as the primary financial providers for their families with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. The award can be used for tuition, books, childcare, transportation, or any other education-related expense.

The most challenging aspect of this program is getting applications into the hands of eligible women. Please note that to access the LIVE YOUR DREAMS application, go to: <http://bit.ly/LYDA-apply>.

Please forward to any woman you know who strives to attain higher education in the hopes of better supporting themselves and their family. For your convenience in accessing our LIVE YOUR DREAM award information, I have included a flyer.

I have also included our club's contact information so that applicants may submit the applications directly to us. We hope you can take a moment to help a deserving woman in your community by forwarding this information.

Thank you for your time and support in helping women to live their dreams!

Sincerely,
Marie Parker
Soroptimist International of Kansas City
LIVE YOUR DREAM Chair



**APPLY NOW
APPLICATION
DEADLINE NOV. 15**

Are you a woman that has been enrolled or accepted into a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program? Are you the primary financial support for yourself and dependents?

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

soroptimist.org/tyda-apply

www.kcsoroptimist.org





SI Kansas City History

Butler Manufacturing's company newsmagazine, "The Butler Bee", December 1952 carried the following article.

On Sunday, May 11, 1952, almost ten months to the day after devastation had swept the Kaw River bottoms, families who had been dispossessed by the flood waters found new faith in the dedication of the Randall Jesse Community House in Trailer City.

Here the rolling ground is studded with a thousand-odd trailer houses in which approximately 1,000 children and 2,000 adults have been carrying on family life as best they can since early last fall. From the single trailer with an elderly man and wife to the three-trailer arrangement of the family with fourteen children—all represent hearth and home to a community living in circumstances more like the pioneers of a hundred years ago than like most of us today.

Members of the Soroptimist Club of Kansas City, MO, have been interested in Trailer City from the start. They immediately "adopted" thirty-five families, supplying them with winter bedding and other essentials. But members of their Service Committee—Mrs. Anton K. Westh, Mrs. John Spaulding, Mrs. Martha Franklin, and others—became increasingly concerned about the children.

Until the necessities of shelter and clothing had been met there was no time to think of recreation and community life. Last December, however, the Soroptimists announced their intention to try to provide a Community House for the new neighborhood, a place where all members of all the families might meet and take part in activities that interested them, a place to spend pleasant evenings getting acquainted, and a place for the children after school.

The Soroptimists knew they were tackling a big project, but they went to work with a will. Mrs. Franklin, as head of the "how-to-get-it-done" committee, went to local business firms, to the labor organizations, and to other civic-minded groups and individuals and stated her case well.

Months of hard work and cooperation were brought to wonderfully happy end when the Community House was dedicated recently. Miss Adalain Taylor, president of the Soroptimist Club, presided during the ceremonies. Indicating the spacious building with its attractive decoration and modern equipment, Miss Taylor said, "All this is a vital evidence of the spirit of cooperation which can exist among all groups when the cause is worthy."

Our Company (Butler Manufacturing), which made the building available at a minimum cost, was signaled out for recognition. Besides introducing Mr. Speakman to the audience, Miss Taylor mentioned the advice and help in erection and planning given by Wilbur Larkin and Clark Kjørlaug, both of whom sat on the platform during the program.

SI Kansas City History (continued)

The climax of the afternoon came when the dedicatory plaque was presented to Randall Jessee, for whom the Community House was named in recognition of his tireless coverage of the flood over WDAF-TV, and the continued appeals and public information he gave on the progress of Trailer City and the post-flood rehabilitation of the families affected.

The Rev. Dr. John Nanson, who gave the invocation, announced that church services would begin at the Community House the following Sunday. A survey of the families, he said, revealed that twenty-three denominations were represented and that the families were eager to begin religious observances. A full program of events was scheduled to begin immediately at the Center, including Scouting for boys and girls, athletics, and evening programs including movies, television, games and talent shows.

(Next month, our club was just gearing up for community service projects. But how to fund them? Stay tuned...)

2026 Conference Planning Full Speed Ahead

Your 2026 Conference (and 100th anniversary celebration of SI Kansas City) is in full planning mode.

The hotel has been booked. A decent room charge has been procured despite the World Cup invading our city next year. We have speakers identified. An agenda is in process. Program printing has been determined. And our Governor, Leigh Hedgpeth, is planning the fine details. We will have Friday night dedicated to celebrating 100 years of Soroptimist with Kansas City BBQ, and blues and jazz by a well known Kansas City jazz artist and her band,

Our club and our accomplishments will be on full display. Please plan on attending. We need full participation to let our city and the South Central Region know that we are serious about our mission to advance the status of women and girls in our community. We have adhered to that vision since 1926. It is time to celebrate!

FosterAdopt Connect

On October 4th, I had the great joy of volunteering alongside fellow Soroptimist sisters Angie Guynes, Lynn LeCount, and Lynn's husband Jon at one of our sister's fundraising events for *FosterAdopt Connect's Silver Jubilee*.

Our amazing sister, **Terri Goddard**, who serves as the Director of Corporate Engagement at FosterAdopt Connect, planned and executed an incredible fundraiser that raised **over \$900,000** to support foster and adoptive children and families in the Kansas City area. What an achievement!

Angie and I worked in the silent auction area, helping guests navigate the online bidding site, while Lynn and Jon brought their energy and charm to selling beads for the lively **Heads and Tails** game. They were *perfect for the job*. *Thanks to their enthusiasm, a lot of the beads sold right before the game began!*

Having played Heads and Tails before at my former club's fundraising events, I knew I had to join in the fun. I bought six beads online early on and another six once I arrived. One by one, participants guessed whether the auctioneer's virtual coin would land on heads or tails - hands on your head for heads, hands on your hips for tails. If you guessed wrong, off went a bead! The last person standing with beads would win the prize.

And guess who won? **Me... Mysti Meiers!** I was stunned! I never win anything, but that night I walked away with over \$800 worth of wine and spirits, including a special bottle of bourbon valued at \$400–500.

Beyond the excitement, the evening held deep meaning for me. As an adoptee, it was profoundly moving to support a great organization like FosterAdopt Connect, and helping children and families thrive through adoption and foster care.

But what made the night truly special was *us*. *Standing side by side with my Soroptimist sisters reminded me that our organization is so much more than the projects we do. Which, don't get me wrong, the things we do in SIKC is extremely important work but it's also about friendship, compassion, and **lifting each other up**.*

Together, we make a difference in our community and in each other's lives.



FosterAdopt Connect



Are they having fun or what?



A beautiful venue...



Lovely tables...



Mysti winning!!!!

Terri needs volunteers! Can you help? Please email her...

