

The Signpost

Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 99 Years

Soroptimist International of Kansas City
South Central Region



SOROPTIMIST® February 2026

The Signpost

Investing in Dreams



President's Message
Mysti Meiers



A Valentine's Day Story...

Valentine's Day arrived, and as usual, we hadn't made any special plans to celebrate. Late in the afternoon, Bob suggested, "Why don't we go out so I can buy you dinner tonight?" I thought to myself, without reservations, there's no chance we'll find an open table anywhere. I replied, "Thanks, my dear, but I don't think we stand a prayer of finding anything anywhere." Still, Bob was convinced that we'd find a place, so we put on our coats and headed out the door together.

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Driving across the highway, we spotted a Waffle House. Bob said, "Why not there?" It wasn't my favorite, but I was willing to give it a try, so we pulled into the parking lot. The Waffle House was mostly empty, allowing us to easily find a booth. We sat down and looked over the menu as a few more people trickled in. I was surprised to see how many people chose Waffle House for their Valentine's Day dinner. Our waitress took our order, served us coffee, and Bob began playing games on his phone while I watched the other diners.

Kay Stewart, Editor

Caitlin Miller,
Photographer and Reality
Checker

A few minutes later, a woman came in alone. She appeared to be around 30 years old, not very well off, wearing old jeans, a T-shirt, a worn jacket, and her hair pulled up in a messy ponytail. Tattoos peeked out here and there. She sat at the counter, ordered a cup of coffee and drew into herself. Soon after, a large man entered the restaurant. He looked like a construction worker, bald and dressed in Carhartt overalls and heavy boots, with tattoos covering his arms and neck. He was carrying a tiny little gift bag decorated with hearts.

www.kcsoroptimist.org

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Soroptimist International
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The man walked over to the woman at the counter. She looked up at him, and her face broke into a wide, joyful smile. He greeted her, "Happy Valentine's Day, honey," and took a seat beside her, snuggling up close.

At that moment, there was no one else in the restaurant. It was a simple scene, but my heart smiled.

Kay (filling in for President Mysti)



February Calendar



Board Meeting

February 11, 2026
6:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Business Meeting

February 18, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Location TBD

2026 SCR Conference Committee Meeting

February 25, 2026
6:30 p.m.
via Zoom



February Birthdays

Nora Magee February 2



February Business Meeting

6:00 p.m.

February 18, 2026

Location To Be Determined

5:30 p.m. Social Time

6:00 p.m. Dinner

**Terri Goddard will send out details about dinner.
Please watch for her email.**

**RSVP to Terri Goddard
no later than Friday, February 13**

Please note: It is imperative that all members attend this meeting as we will be finalizing plans for our 2026 SCR Conference and our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Be thinking about what you would like to do, how much time you can give us that weekend, April 24-26, and whether you could reserve a room and stay the weekend for all the activities. We need to make a great showing and party hardy!

Blast from the past...

Celebrating our 80th Anniversary as a club.



2026 Conference Planning



The team edited and revised the original Call conference planning agenda, incorporating required information and then reviewing it yet again before submitting to SCR. Our thanks to everyone who attempted to whip this into shape and keep our printing costs down!

Governor Leigh has received the document and is anticipating publishing The Call in the next 30 days. The hotel is open for reservations.

Our February Club meeting will provide time for members to immerse themselves in the program planning, determine where each may share their time and skills to help bring this massive undertaking to success. The committee will share the updated task list and timelines in hopes of starting the discussion-- we need to have everyone participate!



Community Service

Due to winter weather conditions, our school supplies will be delivered to Lindberg Elementary School the first week in February. We collected three boxes of supplies including crayons//pencils/markers/scissors/notebooks/composition books/binders and book bags.

Our No-Sew blanket project originally scheduled for February has been paused based on the decision to focus the meeting on the upcoming 2026 SCR conference.

Live Your Dream



The finalists for the LIVE YOUR DREAM Award have been selected. There are five award recipients. The first place award recipient is Brittney Thompson, followed by Alana Rhodes, Christiane Tchoumba, Elizabeth Gunkel, and Cassandra Shaddox. Each award recipient will be sent checks in January. The five award recipients will be honored on May 9th at our Bloom and Brunch fundraising event.

Audit, Financial Procedures

The mid-year audit was completed with the help of Marcia, Grace, and Angie, setting a nice foundation for year end audit in August.

Marcia, Grace, Danielle, Marie and Tanya began the process of reviewing the existing financial procedures utilized by the club. Since inception in 2021, the process has been reviewed annually during the audit process. This year focuses on addressing ACH or Electronic Fund Transfers, tightening up the check reimbursement process and forms among other items. The next meeting will be February 4th via zoom. Also on the committee: Norma and Linda.

Public Relations

The Public Relations committee had a zoom on 1/20. Lynn and myself were able to get the "how-to" finalized, and the folders and documents set up for Growth Recruitment & Retention. We have a few more details to get ironed out as a committee. Hope to have that finalized by the end of February. As always, please send any social media announcements/requests to caityjo89@gmail.com. If you have any post suggestions or requests for February, please send them my way. Final reminder for Service Objective Grants went out on 1/26 (Thank you Norma).

If you are having any issues accessing the google drive or need more assistance than the "how-to" doc provides, please let me know. Access to various folders, as requested by their committee chairs went out last week. Those access emails come from soroptimistkansascity@gmail.com. If you have not received the link for the "how-to" access doc, please let me know. We have a couple of members with emails that are not supported by Google for access to folders in the drive. Those people have been sent an email (from soroptimistkansascity@gmail.com) for additional information/assistance.

Thank you,
Caitlin



Orientation Dinner



Thursday, February 26th will be orientation for Angie, Terri and Linda over dinner at V's Italian Restaurant in Independence. Everyone is welcome to attend. While 6 p.m. is likely, the Growth, Recruitment & Retention Committee will finalize their plans during their early February Zoom. For now, please email Lynn if you'd like to join us and receive further details.

**You're Invited to
SIA' s 49th Biennial Convention in
Incheon, South Korea!**



Experience the energy, culture and inspiration of Incheon, South Korea, at SIA's 49th Biennial Convention, July 22–25, 2026, at the stunning INSPIRE Entertainment Resort.

Over four unforgettable days, Soroptimists from around the world will come together to connect, learn and celebrate our shared commitment to transforming the lives of women and girls. Expect dynamic learning experiences, meaningful conversations and moments that reignite our collective purpose—while creating memories that last a lifetime.

Go to soroptimist.org to register.

Meet Linda Myers

Linda Myers became a member of our Soroptimist club after being introduced by her longtime friend, Terri Goddard. Linda was drawn to our organization because of its mission to promote the advancement of women and girls. She has a particular interest in planning events and is eager to contribute to the upcoming May Bloom & Brunch Event scheduled for May 9th.



Professional Background

Linda has enjoyed a varied and exciting career in commercial real estate and finance. She is a Certified Property Manager and previously served as president of the Institute of Real Estate Management in the Kansas City area. Linda worked for JC Nichols for a significant period, managing properties including suburban office buildings and offices on the Country Club Plaza. She also managed Corporate Woods and Lighton Plaza in Overland Park, KS. She went on to manage Medical Office buildings until she retired in May, 2024. Through her professional journey, Linda established strong business relationships and lasting friendships. Her expertise in finance is expected to be a valuable asset to the club's financial planning efforts in the future.

Community Roots and Family

A Kansas City native, Linda was born and raised in Raytown. Her family has deep ties to the community; her mother graduated from Raytown High School, as did Linda, her husband and her two sons. The family remains close-knit, with all of them living within a mile of each other in Raytown .

Personal Life

Linda is anticipating the arrival of her first grandchild in March. She and her husband have been married for 43 years, sharing a love of travel, especially to Caribbean islands during the winter months. They are looking forward to an upcoming trip to Grand Cayman.



SI Kansas City History

Soroptimist International of Kansas City is fortunate that early members saw the value of creating and sustaining a foundation to assist women and children in our community.

There are few clubs that have this luxury. It is important to remind ourselves that a major component of Soroptimist is service. Our Community Service Committee is an integral part of our club and must be ever vigilant for projects that can serve as impetus for hands-on service.

Over the last 20 years, our club has participated in a wide range of projects. One of our main projects earlier was been the Ronald McDonald Sunday Night Suppers. We provided supper as often as once a month or as needed for over 20 years. We always did a theme such as “Breakfast for Dinner, Italian for Lovers, Souper Bowl, Schools Out” or other such nonsense. The families appreciate our effort, the food and our company. We enjoyed visiting with the families and share their concern for their sick child. Unfortunately, Covid brought a stop to it and has not yet been resumed.

Our major interest this year is the Poverty Period Program. We were astounded to learn how many girls are not able to go to school during their periods as they don't have access to the supplies to manage their situation. This is going to be our signature program for the foreseeable future.

Another fun project over the last few years has been adopting a family for the holidays through Don Bosco. We provide winter coats, snow shovels, clothing, and things teens love.

We have collected items for non-profits for many years. They are varied but always appreciated. Some of them have been:

* Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP): They give a book to each child who enters their door. We have collected and supplied them with over many books over the last few years.

- Kansas City elementary schools: We collected school supplies and canned goods.
- * As one our Friendship Links, we have worked closely with SI Harare, Zimbabwe to provide necessities to women and children who are destitute in their country. Just Children and SODA (Society of Disabled Aged) of Harare, Zimbabwe are two of the projects with which we have assisted. We sent toiletries, over the counter drugs, bandages, and school supplies in past years. We helped to finance the creation of a borehole (well) for the Just Children school. We also contributed to enabling farming resources to be created for SODA so the elderly could raise their own fruits and vegetables guaranteeing nutritious food for the residents,.

These are just a few of the many things we have done and will continue to do through the Community Service projects of Soroptimist International of Kansas City.

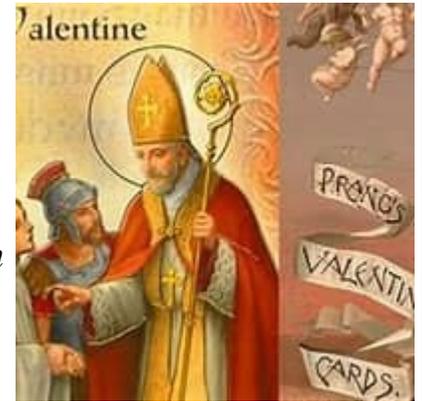
(Next month: Where did the Soroptimist emblem design come from?)



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, has origins rooted in ancient Roman traditions and the martyrdom of St. Valentine, evolving over centuries into a day dedicated to love and affection.

Valentine's Day is believed to have originated from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was celebrated in mid-February. This festival included fertility rites and matchmaking rituals, where young women and men were paired off, often leading to long-term relationships. The festival honored the coming of spring and involved various celebrations that symbolized fertility and purification.



Connection to St. Valentine



The holiday is named after St. Valentine, a Christian martyr who lived during the 3rd century CE. There are several legends associated with him, including one where he defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. Valentine continued to perform secret marriages for couples, which ultimately led to his arrest and execution. Another legend suggests that while imprisoned, he healed the jailer's blind daughter and sent her a letter signed "From your Valentine," which is thought to be the origin of the modern practice of sending Valentine's cards.

Evolution into a Day of Romance



Valentine's Day began to be associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries, coinciding with the rise of courtly love traditions in Europe. By the 18th century, it had transformed into an occasion for couples to express their love through gifts, flowers, and greeting cards, known as "valentines". The symbols of Valentine's Day, such as hearts, doves, and Cupid, further emphasize its romantic connotations.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, serving as a day for lovers to express their affection and appreciation for one another, which its origins reflect a blend of ancient pagan customs and Christian traditions that have evolved over time into the holiday we recognize today.

