

South Central Region Spotlight



February 2025

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Carolyn Holt, Editor carolynholt@ymail.com 214-384-5580

Governor Leigh's Message

Greetings Fellow Soroptimists,

I hope you all had a great Holiday season. In Illinois we had a warm 50 degree Christmas followed by a deep freeze for the New Year with about 8.5 inches of snow in my area.

Now that the Holidays are past, I have been working with SI Grand Prairie, TX to get thing wrapped up for our Region Conference on April

25th and 26th. You will find hotel and registration Information in this issue of the Spotlight. I hope each club will strive to send their three club delegates to this event. We have bylaws amendments to vote on and several Live Your Dream Awards to present. Then Saturday night we will have fun and a few laughs as we try on SI Grand Prairie's "Sneaker Ball" and try our hand at Pickle Ball. Pack those blinged out tennis shoes (for the Sneaker Ball), shorts, and tees for playing pickle ball, and enjoy some fun and friendly competition on Saturday night.

I hope your club has been able to attend at least one of our Public Awareness Chairs' zoom events. Chair Kelly Fogarty has given us some great ideas and educated us in ways to help be brand compliant and increase our public footprint. If you haven't joined us for one yet, please do, Public Awareness Zoom Calls are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and usually run about one hour. Any member of the Region is free to attend these events.

Two things to remember as we get ready for the Region Conference, each club is asked to donate at least one item for the Silent Auction held during the Region Conference. The money raised will help fund our Dreams In Action Awards for the following year. Second please make sure you submit the information for the remembrance of former members to Remembrance Chair Cheri Nolle, that form is also in this issue of the Spotlight. In other news, SIA has notified clubs of the mandatory conference fees for the 2026 Biennial Convention in Korea. Each club will be assessed \$825. This assessed fee will cover registration for one club delegate. Invoices will arrive early in 2026, but I hope this early notice will allow your clubs to plan for the fiscal impact.

Best regards,

Governor Leigh

scrsoroptimist.org

99th South Central Region Conference **April 25, 2025**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and mail it with your club **check payable to South Central Region** no later than <u>April 14,2025</u>, to avoid a late registration fee. The registration fee is \$30. If additional space is required, please make additional copies of this form. <u>Please print all the information required.</u>

<u>Deadline:</u> Conference registration deadline is <u>April 14,2025</u> Registrations post-marked after this date will be \$40.00 Print & send this form along with your payment to: Patricia Gouldy, Treasurer 3900 Kramar Ct

Arlington, TX 76016

Name	Registration \$30.00	Friday \$44.00	Saturday Breakfast \$29.50	Saturday Lunch \$32.00	Saturday Dinner \$60.00	Saturday Pickle Ball \$10.00	First Time Attendee	Total All meals \$165.50
President	prepaid							
Delegate	prepaid							
Delegate	prepaid							
Alternate Delegates								
	\$30.00							
Non- Delegates and Guests								
	\$30.00							
	\$30.00							
Totals								

CLUB NAME:	 	
CLUB CONTACT PERSON:		
CLUB CONTACT FMAIL & PHONE:		



Courtyard by Marriott Dallas Grand Prairie

2850 S SH 161 Frontage Rd Grand Prairie, TX 75052 (972) 807-5500

Our lobby at Courtyard by Marriott provides greater flexibility and choices for our guests. At the center of it all is The Bistro, your destination for a great breakfast or dinner and drinks in the evening. You will also enjoy inviting flexible spaces where you can work or relax with complimentary Wi-Fi. Plus, our well-equipped fitness center, outdoor pool, putting green, patio bar, and fire pit invite you to socialize, refresh, and be energized.

Click this link to make reservations:

Book your group rate for Soroptimist SCR Conference 2025 Or call (844) 746-6519, Group: Soroptimist SCR Conference 2025

Start Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025

End Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025 Our

special group rate:

Double Queen Room - \$149 per night plus taxes

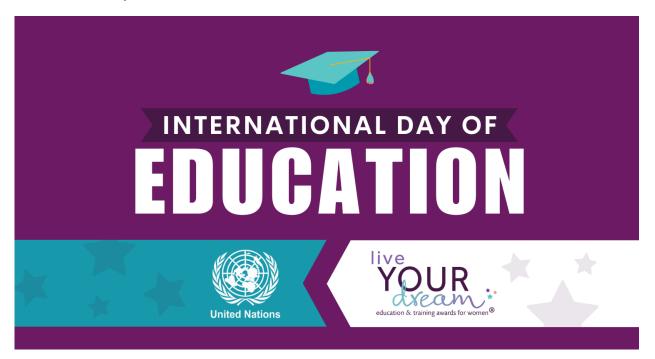
Last Day to Book: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Spotlight Feb 1 2025 - SIA Information

Dates to remember

Jan 24 UN designated International Day of Education recognizing the vital role education plays in transforming the lives of women and girls.

UN International Day of Education



More than any other intervention, a quality education holds the greatest potential to transform the lives of women and girls. Access to education addresses many of the other issues that impact women, including domestic violence, trafficking, teen dating violence, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and sexual assault. Providing women and girls with quality education is the cornerstone of Soroptimist International of the Americas' Dream Programs – whether it's formal education or technical and vocational training. We want to ensure that women and girls have the skills and information they need to live their full potential. By focusing on women and girls with obstacles, we include those who are most vulnerable, including older girls and adults who may feel like it's too late to pursue the life-changing impact of education.

Our Dream Programs

Our Dream Programs and local projects not only increase access to education but also help prevent the circumstances that make women and girls susceptible to gendered violence such as trafficking and intimate partner violence. Together, this powerful combination helps us challenge the future and build a more gender equal world together.

Full article at https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/si-day-of-education

Walk for Women events – Saturday March 30, 2025 – SIA has several customizable flyers from Canva

For more information go to https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/tools-to-promote-your-walk-for-women-event **Tools to Promote Your Walk for Women Event**

Jan 9, 2025



Organizing a Walk for Women event is a powerful way to bring people together, raise awareness, and advocate for women and girls. Boost your Walk for Women campaign with customizable social graphics, flyer templates, email templates, and other promotional tools. Whether planning a small community walk or a large-scale event, this guide has templates and graphics to make your Walk for Women promotions memorable and successful.

To raise funds have participants get pledges for each lap/mile walked. Provide a food and drink stand. Charge an entry fee and give participants a tshirt to wear. Include a raffle. Encourage walking with your pet.

Special apparel is available to help promote these events thru Bonfire. A portion of each purchase comes back to Soroptimist to help support our Dream Programs. Plan your event today.

For more information go to <a href="https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/tools-to-promote-your-walk-for-women event Remember to report both your Dream It Be It programs and your Big Goal projects by June 30, 2025. Last year 2023-2024 we reached two of our three Region Goals. Let's work hard to make sure that the South Central Region reaches all of the 2024-2025 Goals!



Soroptimist is 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 THE AMERICAS, INC.

Soroptimists UpliftHER

Soroptimists UpliftHER

Soroptimists UpliftHER is an exciting new member engagement initiative from the program department. Once a quarter, we will focus on an obstacle that women and girls face on their path to formal education and economic empowerment. SIA headquarters will share information about the obstacle, as well as suggested projects related to that obstacle that count towards our Big Goal. Clubs can participate in the quarterly project focus by sharing SIA posts and posting their own projects with the the hashtag #SoroptimistsUpliftHER.

Focus Areas and Projects

October: Intimate Partner Violence

 Partner with a local shelter to provide professional dress clothing for women who have experienced violence and provide training on interview basics, resume writing, and career advancement. Be sure to report it as a Big Goal Accelerator Project.

January: Trafficking

 Provide a scholarship for woman who have experienced trafficking and if appropriate, offer a career or college mentoring program. Be sure to report it as a Big Goal Accelerator Project (or Live Your Dream Award, if you give one to a survivor of trafficking).

March: Single Parenting

 Financial assistance for childcare during school or training programs can make a huge difference to a single parent! If your club provides childcare grants to single mothers, be sure to report it to SIA.

May: Period Poverty

 Host a drive and get hands-on while you create period kits to donate to local agencies serving foster girls, shelters, or low-income schools. Don't forget to report it to SIA!

Ways to Get Involved!

This is a

completely voluntary initiative, but we do hope members and clubs will be excited to participate! • Share SIA's posts about each monthly focus on social media. Post about your club's own project using the hashtag #SoroptimistsUpliftHER. Participate in one of the suggested quarterly projects and report it to SIA as appropriate!

Questions? Email Program@soroptimist.org for more information.

1709 Spruce Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103 | 215-893-9000 | siahq@soroptimist.org | Soroptimist.org | LiveYourDream.org © Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.®

REMEMBRANCE

99th South Central Region Conference **April 25, 2025**



A memorial tribute will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, in the memory of Members who have passed away since April 2024.

Please complete the form below and email it with a picture of your deceased person on or before *March* 31, 2025, to:

Cheri Nolle
Region Remembrance Chair
SI Greater St. Louis, Missouri
314.578.8510
cnollejd@gmail.com

Please provide the following information about the deceased member: any Club, District, Region, Federation, or International offices or positions; whether or not she was a Past President or Charter Member of your club; any other comments or information you would like to share about her.



Investing in Dreams

SOUTH CENT		
REMEMBRA	NCE FORM	
Name of member to be remembered:		
Member of which Soroptimist Club:		
Year member joined the club:		
Number of years as a member:		
Charter Member:		
Soroptimist involvement (offices, committees, etc.):		
Personal information (occupation, children, etc.):		
When member passed away:		
Submitted by:		Name
Club:		-
District:		

Soroptimist Shirt Pre-Order Form

{front of the shirt is printed in glitter}



Club Name:	
Contact Name:	
Contact Phone:	Email:

Size	Short # of shirts	Long s # of shirt	Total # of s Shirts	Total \$ Due	
Adult S	\$25	\$35			
Adult M	\$25	\$35			
Adult L	\$25	\$35			
Adult XL	\$25	\$35			
Adult XXL	\$27	\$37			
Adult XXXL	\$29	N/A			

ALL order forms are due WITH payment by

GRAND TOTAL:	
# of Items	
\$	

Mail this form to Patricia Gouldy along with your Registration Form including your Shirt payment as a separate check payable to South Central Region. There will be a limited quantity of shirts

Both shirts are Bella+Canvas Unisex ring-spun jersey cotton that are relaxed fit and pre-shrunk.

Did You Know?

SIA's Member Portal is in its first phase of a major makeover. At this time, only club presidents and treasurers received the link to log in to the portal to manage club dues and update the club roster. However, the club president or treasurer can assign an Admin to the club. The Admin can be any club member.

To add a Club Admin, the club president or treasurer needs to log in to their Member Portal, go to the Club Portal, select New Club Officer, select the member of the club, and set their Club Level Leadership Position as "Club Admin".

The benefit of adding a Club Admin is that she would be a member designated to update the club portal for new or terminated members from the club roster. This member can then continue in this position as long as needed in this capacity. Club presidents and treasurers often change every one to two years upon new elections. The Club Admin could be your club's membership chair or any member willing to accept the responsibility of keeping your club roster updated on the SIA portal.

If you have any questions about adding a Club Admin, please contact me at k.newsom@outlook.com

Kathy Newsom
2024-2026 SCR Treasurer

2024 Districts Meeting











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SI KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI NEWS

2024-2025 Installation of Officers

A fun time was had by all at our Installation Ceremony on June 12, 2024. After spending time catching up with each other, and another delicious dinner at Hereford House, twelve SIKC members, who were elected to serve on our Board and Foundation were installed for the 2024-2025 club year by Immediate Past President Margaret Smith.

Our new officers on the club board are: Lynn LeCount, President; Mysti Meiers, President-

Elect; Candy Routledge, Secretary, Grace Boswell, Treasurer,

Angie Guynes and Marie Parker, Directors.Our Foundation Trustees are: Marcia Boutz, Chair; Tanya Johannes, Vice Chair; Danielle Sidney, Treasurer; Jerri Cofran, Secretary; Dianne Young and Caitlin Miller, Trustees.



L-R: Margaret Smith, Candy Routledge, Mysti Meiers, Lynn LeCount, Tanya Johannes, Jerri Cofran, Norma McKelvy, Caitlin Miller, Angie Guynes and Marie Parker.



SI KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI NEWS (continued)

Installation Fun



The ever present selfie......

Surprising Melaine......



President Lynn and Past President Margaret with our beautiful charter from 1926.....



Listening intently......

SI WINFIELD, KANSAS News

UpliftHER is Soroptimist International's powerful new initiative that will focus on obstacles that women and girls face on their path to formal education and economic empowerment. Each quarter, the organization will focus on one obstacle. The quarter 4 of 2024 focus was intimate partner violence. Women who experience violence in relationships, often suffer financially. They may be forced to rely on their abuser for money, banned from working, or forced to turn over their earnings to their abuser. Many women experiencing intimate partner violence are afraid to leave because of threats to their physical safety. They also have very real fears about how they can provide for themselves and their dependents if they have been prevented from doing so. Access to formal education can provide women with the tools to prevent experiencing domestic violence and to command better wages after they leave a violent situation. As a Big Goal Accelerator Project, Soroptimist of Winfield hosted a Professional Clothing drive Members were encouraged to peruse their closets and part with any professional clothing they no longer needed. Each business meeting, a clothing rack was present to collect these items. On January 16th, Projects and Community Service Chair, Christina MacDonald, and Vice President, Nancy Martin, presented these items to Eagle Nest Inc in Winfield. Eagle Nest Inc. is a local nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing local classes, support, clothing, household goods, and financial assistance to women in need. Soroptimist of Winfield members donated over 100 pieces of professional clothing collected during the drive



As a Big Goal Accelerator Project, Soroptimist of Winfield hosted a Professional Clothing drive. Members were encouraged to peruse their closets and part with any professional clothing they no longer needed. Each business meeting, a clothing rack was present to collect these items. On January 16th, Projects and Community Service Chair, Christina McDonald, and Vice President, Nancy Martin, presented these items to Eagle Nest Inc in Winfield. Eagle Nest Inc. is a local nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing local classes, support, clothing, household goods, and financial assistance to women in need.

Soroptimist of Winfield members donated over 100 pieces of professional clothing to Eagle Nest Inc. that were collected!

SI AUSTIN, TEXAS News



SI of Austin was chartered on March 3, 1945. What a wonderful legacy! We are planning for a fantastic 80th Anniversary Celebration in March, coordinated with our Live Your Dream and Ava Crofford Awards presentations. Details are coming soon! We will give two Live Your Dream Awards this year.



We are beginning a new partnership with Arms of Hope, an Austin nonprofit with programs for women and families escaping trafficking, abuse, and more. The education grants we will make to some of their clients will qualify for the Big Goal Accelerator Program, adding to the women we serve. An awards ceremony has been scheduled for March 8, International Women's Day, at one of their facilities.



President Judy Brown is celebrating her 50th Anniversary as a Soroptimist on February 1st. Congratulations Judy!!

SI ROCKWALL, TEXAS News

The Black & White Casino Night Fundraiser



L-R: Susan Holt, Giovanna Psolka, Madelyn Hill, Deanna Tucker, Debbie Branch, Janet Patrick, Michelle VanParys, Holly Lyons, & Delia Watts





L-R: Mary Grace Frasier, Angela Furguson, Holly Lyons & Susan Holt

Chairwoman Cassandra Jones and her incredible committee with help from SI Rockwall Club Members hosted their 5th Annual Black & White Hollywood Casino extravaganza evening in November. Two hundred Rockwall residents, supporters and members enjoyed live music, casino games, a paparazzi experience & photo booth, Spin it to Win It for prizes, live auction and themed baskets raffle. The event was a huge success netting more proceeds than previous events. These proceeds will fund local and International Live Your Dream awards, Dream It Be It awards as well as scholarships for Rockwall High School senior girls.



Johnny Lyons, Entertainer



SI ROCKWALL, TEXAS News (continued)













SI ROCKWALL, TEXAS News (continued)

Members Celebrate the Christmas Library Luncheon



L-R: Madelyn Hill, Ariana Kistner, Mary Rodriguez, Debbie Roan, Danna Taylor, Sue Reeves, Rhonda Wright, Linda Johnson, Deanna Tucker, Jody Wright & Debbie Branch Seated L-R: Frances Roberts & Cindy Lindley







SI GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS News



At our November Business Meeting SI-Grand Prairie welcomed members from SI-Dallas. Ginny Lloyd, Lala Gonzalez and Debra Purdon enjoyed lunch and friendship while learning about our events as we learned about theirs. Left to right: Dawn, Tami, Liz, Debra, Lala, Ginny, Tarrance.

Just before Thanksgiving we socialized at our "no turkey" dinner. Lasagna, fettuccine alfredo, salad, garlic bread and desserts were enjoyed by Soroptimists and their family members: Left to right: Tarrance, Buck, Tami, Eric, Reace, Donna.





At the Hispanic Ambassador's Magic Christmas event Dawn, Pat, Marilyn and Li Ling helped Santa and Mrs. Claus distribute gifts and beverages. Our club members love helping at community events.

SI GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS News (continued)



For our December Christmas party Doranna, Petra, Tami, and Donna provided delicious home made soups. Salad and desserts were also donated. Photo: L to R Standing: Li Ling, Shebra, Melinda, Michelle, Pat, Tami, Seated: Donna, Petra, Marilyn.



Club members donated Christmas gifts to members of two group homes and to a Lifeline for Families mother and her daughters. Group home Santa's helpers left to right: Liz, Marilyn, Donna, Petra.

Our January Business Meeting was held virtually as weather conditions made traveling too risky. During the Zoom we continued planning for our March 8 Honoring Her Sneaker Ball, and for hosting the SCR Conference April 25-27 in Grand Prairie. Hope you can join us.

SI DALLAS, TEXAS News



Soroptimist International of Dallas partners with Journey of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting children and their families grieving the loss of a loved one. On November 21, 2024, SI Dallas members Debra Purdon, Debbie Davis and Ginny Lloyd prepared and served dinner to their clients and counselors before the evening counseling session began. SI Dallas has supported Journey of Hope for a number of years. Several of our members, Jama Ball and Angela Standish, served on their Board of Directors.



On December 3, 2024, SI Dallas members got together at Ford's Garage Restaurant to celebrate the season. Everyone had a fun time socializing and talking about their holiday plans. The Club does not hold business/program meetings in the month of December, so this was a great time just being together and having fun.

SI Vandalia, IL News



Brandon and MxKinnzie Clark and kids tell Santa what they want for Christmas.



The Vandalia Soroptimist Ladies

Front row: Gina Lytle, Megan Kistler, Theresa Knebel, Tricia Elam, Melissa Wollin, Connie Goldsmith and Chelsey Jolliff. Back row: Mary Schulze, Terri Bruan, Sandra Johnson, Santa, Joy Bundy-Clymer, Kendra Craig, Marilyn Cole and LaTishia Paslay.



Tinsley Links with Santa



L-R: Kendra Craig, Terri Bruan, Melissa Wollin, Sandy Johnson, and Marylin Cole busy making pancakes and sausage for Santa.