



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

South Central Region Spotlight

November 2025



SCR News

From your South Central Region Bylaws & Resolutions Committee

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We are preparing for the South Central Region Conference that will take place in April 2026. Per our SCR Bylaws, "Club Bylaws must receive final approval from the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee in order for the club to be seated at Region Conference in the even-numbered year following the listed odd-numbered year submission requirements."

Has your Club submitted their bylaws yet?

District II Bylaws were due by September 1, 2025

District I Bylaws were due by October 1, 2025

District III Bylaws are due by November 1, 2025.

Clubs should have submitted their bylaws for review to their District Bylaws Chair by the deadline, per SCR Bylaws, Article VIII Committees, Section 2: Duties of Technical Committees, part b. Clubs who have successfully received final approval will receive an email stating that their bylaws have been approved and they are eligible to be seated at the Region Conference. Many clubs have already had their bylaws approved at the District and Region level.

If your club has not yet submitted their bylaws to the appropriate District Chair, please contact your District Chair immediately and make arrangements to get into compliance. We want to see all of you in April!

Yours In Soroptimist Service,

Eileen Hildebrand, SCR Bylaws Chair

scrsoroptimist.org

Governor Leigh's Message

Thank you to everyone that attended our District Meetings, "Soroptimist on Bloom". It was a great weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning. The weekend kicked off with recognition of thirteen first time attendees and special recognition of 50 year member Judy Brown of Austin, Tx. Judy has been a quiet staple at our gatherings for years. Afterwards we enjoyed lots of laughs and tried to improve our hand eye coordination with the games of Minute to Win it. You will find a few pictures elsewhere in this issue of the Spotlight.

On Saturday, the Districts met in their individual sessions to present Dreams In Action, president reports and discuss other items. The Saturday workshop covered all the things we need to keep our Soroptimist gardens, or our clubs, in bloom and growing. This was such a fun way to remind us of all of what it takes to keep our clubs members engaging and healthy.

Our weekend finished with recognition of milestone members with 20,25,30,35,45,50 and even 50+ years. Then it was on to the fun, Karaoke!! Who knew Governor Elect Teresa, and Nicole from Hutchison had such great voices. The Dallas club members, Ginny, Lala and Debra chose to sing karaoke to let us know they are merging with the Grand Prairie club. Their own club has just gotten too small to continue. But active members of the Dallas club will be around for years to come as part of Grand Prairie.

Our new District I Director, Bebee Thomas of SI El Dorado, KS, was introduced to the membership and helped Governor Elect Teresa to conduct the District I meeting. Former District I Director Kimberly Doty has stepped down as life continues to happen, and she needs the time to take care of herself and her family. Kimberly and Jacquie plan to see everyone in April 2026 at our 100th Region conference in Kansas City.

I appreciate all of your responses to the survey that was sent out regarding the in person or virtual Region Conference. We received a lot of informative feedback from our members. Your Region board is looking into our options, and the costs associated with each. We hope to have more information for you at the Region Conference in April. SIA has updated the wording to the change in SIA procedures since the survey went out. The new wording is as follows:

Updated Language

a. Each region shall hold at least one region conference annually at a time and place to be determined by region bylaws. Regions may hold their conferences in any of the following formats to be considered a region conference for the purpose of this procedure: face-to-face, audio or video conferencing, or live-streamed social media. Clubs must have the ability to interact with each other and with region leaders through real-time audio or chat features in a session or multiple sessions of all clubs to be considered a region conference.

Comments regarding in person, virtual or hybrid conference can be sent to governor@scrsoroptimist.org.

The Holidays are just around the corner and we will all be busy soon. If you are holding a special Holiday event, please reach out to your Region Board with an invite. I know Shebra, Jacque, Kathy, and I have had the chance to visit with other members because of an invite. We love to join you when we can. Members of your Region board are always here to help and support clubs.

Until we gather in April, I wish everyone the best.

Governor Leigh



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Dear Club President and Club Treasurer,

Member clubs in SIA's Central East Coast, Midwestern, North Atlantic, South Central and Southern Regions who are in good standing have the opportunity to participate in the electronic ballot to elect a member to the SIA Board of Directors in Electoral Area 11.

The voting portal will be open from Friday, October 31 until 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, January 6.

Electronic Voting

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.® will open the electronic ballot portal for electoral area voting on Wednesday, October 30. If your club is in good standing on that day, your club will receive a unique personalized link sent to the @soroptimist.net club email address. The email will come from the address "vote@ simplyvoting.com". This link cannot be transferred or used by another club. It is authentic to your club, allows entrance to the voting portal and ensures your club only votes once in the election.

Information on how to access your club's @soroptimist.net email is available on the [SIA website](#) if your club has not accessed your club email previously.

[SIA Board position description](#)

Club Voting

The resumes for all the electoral area candidates are now available for your club to review on the [SIA website](#).

Please have your club review all resumes before entering the voting portal. When your club is ready to cast its vote, click your club's authenticated link received in the club email and enter the portal.

When considering the candidates, please review the [Board Position Description](#) on the SIA website.

SIA Procedures

Candidates for federation elected positions are not permitted to campaign, and individuals or clubs are not permitted to campaign on behalf of any candidate. Please refer to [SIA Procedure A. General 2.](#), if your club has any questions about what constitutes campaigning. Any violations of this procedure should be reported to Headquarters immediately.

If you have any questions regarding the ballot, please contact SIA headquarters by email at siahq@soroptimist.org. Thank you for participating in this important governing process of SIA.

Michelle Burnett
Executive Director & CEO

SCR District Meeting News

Membership Milestones

At the District Meetings on October 18, 2025 the South Central Region recognized members with milestone anniversaries that were in attendance.



Jaushlyn Hoover
SI Muskogee
20 years

Cathy Bono, SI
Greater St Louis and
Governor Leigh
Hedgpeth,
SI Vandalia
30 years



Former Governor
Anita Walker
SI Muskogee
40 years

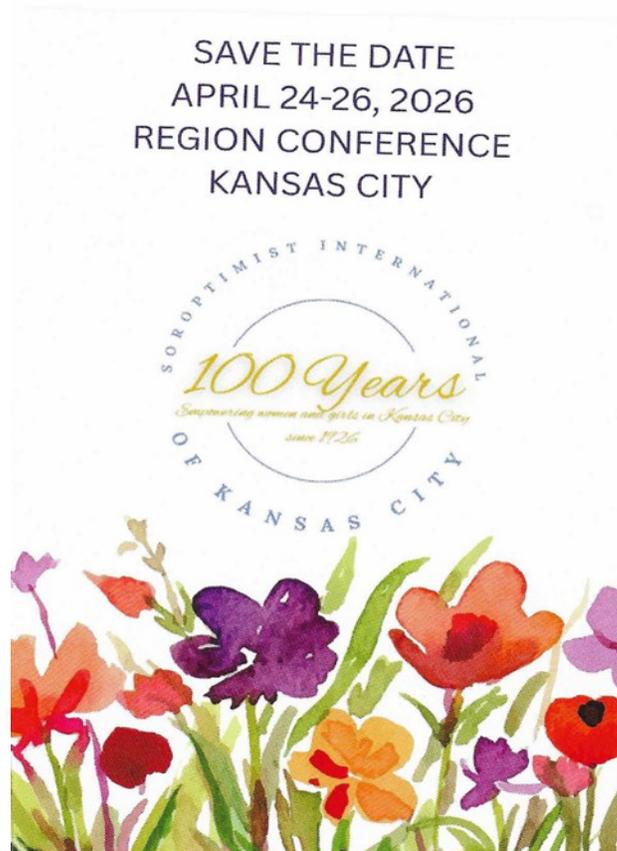


Former Region Treasurer
Marcia Boutz
SI Kansas City
45 years



50 year member
Judy Brown
SI Austin

SCR Conference News



Help us celebrate the 100th South Central Region Conference and the 100th Anniversary of the Kansas City, Missouri Club.

World Cup is coming to Kansas City in 2026 so it is extremely important that all room reservations be made before the deadline of April 1, 2026. Room rate is set at \$139 + tax. BUT rooms may not be available after the cutoff date or could be more expensive if available. BOOK EARLY!

Hotel is the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112th St, Kansas City, MO

Watch for the call and hotel link in the February Spotlight, from your club President or your District Director.

SCR Conference News

HELP US CELEBRATE

The Region needs your help!!! Do you have memories from the past that you're willing to share?

We would like to make our 100th South Central Region Conference a celebration of our history.

We are looking for memories of Maxine Pease, Lucy Keller, Lou Kirby and former Governors of our Region that inspired you.

Contributions of pictures, recorded oral video histories and memories can be sent to governor@scrsoroptimist.org.

SCR District Meeting News



Karaoke

Fun



SCR District Meeting News

Lou Kirby and Public Awareness Olympics Information

Your Region Board has updated the name of the Lou Kirby Best Woman Award to the Lou Kirby Lifetime Achievement Award to better reflect the nature of the women in our Region that we wish to honor. An individual member or a club can submit nominations for this award. Nominations should be submitted by November 30th. Nominations should be sent to Region secretary Kelly Landry @ kellylandry@conafg.com. Please include supporting letters that show how this woman has made an impact in our Region, not just at the club level. The woman chosen as the Lou Kirby award winner receives a donation to her laurel society account and will receive an award to keep commemorating this recognition.

The Public Awareness Olympics awards will be given out for the first time April 2026. This award encourages communication with members and the community. Encourages brand recognition and consistent brand usage throughout the region. Helps to make Soroptimist a recognized, respected and known entity in your community and the region. Removes us from the “best kept secret” category of service organizations. The period for this award is Jan 1, 2025, to Dec 31, 2025. So go back through your club minutes and find those items that qualify. Entries and supporting documents should be sent to governor@scrsoroptimist.org by March 1, 2026. This new award will be replacing the Norma Caldwell Communicate and Grow award that will be sunset in 2026.

An email has been sent to all club Presidents with both the Lou Kirby Lifetime Achievement Award form and the Public Awareness Olympics form.

Governor Leigh

SCR District Meeting News

Minute to Win it!



SI Arkansas City, Kansas News



Above: Soroptimist workers at ease before the recipients enter the building. Upper right: Sock Monkey is overlooking the project at a safe distance. Right: During the event when crowds had lessened.



Sock Project Plus Hands Out Over 350 Packages of Socks and Underwear to Local Elementary Kids

Distribution day for the 13th annual sock and underwear project was held Sunday, August 10th at the Methodist Church. Due to diligent shopping starting in December, merchandise was acquired at lower prices allowing for more children to be served. Packages of socks and underwear were purchased for PreK through 5th grade students. Finally distribution day arrived and over 350 children were given a package of socks and a package of underwear to start the school year. Partnering with the Methodist Church on the day they hand out shoe vouchers, we setup our store and filled orders. We even ran out of merchandise in some sizes! Special thanks to Power of the Purse for supporting this worthwhile project.



Committee members stop to pose at WalMart with new mural on shopping trip.

SI Arkansas City, Kansas News (continued)

Legacy Foundation "Great Give" Check

This check represents the total benefit to our Club as a result of our participation in the great give: \$2,914.76 directly to the Club, and \$2,438.50 to our endowment.

Last Run Car Show Food Concessions Earn Funds



Yazmin Wood of Legacy presents check to Board members Tricia, Mendy, Virginia, Selena, Karen, Angie, and Shelley.



Above Kelly Dillner is happy to take your food order. Left Angie Bruce, Virginia Donaldson, Tricia Blatchford, and Sarah Standerfer cook and serve breakfast.



Friday, September 26th, was setup day for the concession stand and members brought their home baked brownies to be cut and packaged for Saturday. Peach and cherry cobblers were made and baked on site. Starting at 5:30 on Saturday Soroptimist members worked along with Optimist members to prepare breakfast items. Mid morning lunch items were cooked and sold. Thank you to all members for your hard work in our fundraising efforts.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Ways & Means - Our busiest fundraising season is upon us. The Car Show concession stand has just happened and Arkalalah concession stand will soon be here. We're also excited to launch nut sales with a new company this year. These efforts, along with other upcoming projects, are vital in supporting our scholarships and programs for women and girls. Thank you in advance for pitching in and helping make this another successful fundraising season!

Laws & Resolutions – Our Club Bylaws and Standing Rules were revised and approved at our August 13th meeting. They have been printed and distributed to members. Our Bylaws have been approved at District and Region levels.



Member Terry Naden (shown below) presented a program on notable Arkansas City women at our September 24th meeting held at Cowley College. She included many surprising "firsts."

SI Winfield, Kansas News



We are proud to give you a look at our newest Winfield Soroptimist member – Sarah Jo Soroptimist, (Miss Scarecrow Extraordinaire). We have entered her in the “downtown scarecrow light pole decorating contest” in Winfield, KS. Check her out at the corner of 9th and Main Street until November 1st. Isn't she beautiful?????



Members Stephanie Nulik, Cassandra Davis, Donna Thompson and Roxann Taylor with Sarah Jo Soroptimist as she is placed at 9th and Main (below)



SI Winfield, Kansas News (continued)

SEPTEMBER, 2025 PG. 7

Soroptimist Chatter



THE LITTLE SOLES PROJECT

Thanks to a generous Grant from power of the purse, the Winfield Soroptimist club is providing new shoes and socks to Little's to keep those little tootsie's nice and warm. Little Soles provides shoes and socks for those in need for back to school. Pictured is Soroptimist member Christina McDonald and Lindy Merritt with Elevate Cowley County. If you know a local student in need of new shoes or socks contact any Winfield Soroptimist member.



Winfield Soroptimist members Cassandra Davis and Roxann Taylor (not pictured) met WELC Social Worker Kristi Moore at Walmart to pick out and purchase shoes and socks for 11 students in USD 465. Winfield Soroptimist love being able to help students in Winfield have an amazing school year. If you know of a Winfield student who is in need of a new pair of shoes please contact your school social worker.

WINFIELD S/I TRIVIA

Soroptimist Trivia Questions. The first member to TEXT Donna Thompson the correct answers will receive a prize. Her phone # is in the handbook. The answers may be found in the Soroptimist International Newsletter emailed to you around October 2nd.

1. During 2024-2025 how many girls participated in "Dream It Be It"?
2. What is the 49th biennial mandatory convention club fee?
3. Where is the Soroptimist International of America's headquarters located?

GOOD LUCK!



SI Winfield, Kansas News (continued)



Socials

September 4, 2025



Let's party!



Better together

Sometimes it's just fun to get together for no reason - except just to snack, have a drink and socialize with your other Winfield Soroptimist friends. Thanks so much to Member Cassandra Davis for opening your house to us!

SI Joplin, Missouri News



July 21-25, 2025 — Camp Soroptimist 2025 was filled with adventure, laughter, and lasting memories! Forty-seven campers spent the week exploring the outdoors and trying new activities, all made possible by the energy and generosity of more than 150 volunteers. From fishing and horseback riding to crafts, water day fun, and a carnival event, every day brought excitement and joy. It was a week that celebrated friendship, discovery, and the simple magic of being a kid.

SI Joplin Missouri News (continued)



p. 10



SI Joplin Missouri News (continued)



SI El Dorado, Kansas News

[South Central Region News](#)

'Soroptimists in Bloom' District Meeting in Wichita KS October 17-18, 2025.

Region monthly public awareness ZOOM meetings: Monday, October 13 and November 10th 6:30-7:30.

Soroptimist International of the Americas-Building our 2021-2031 Big Goal

In 2012-2013, our SIA board of directors adopted a big goal for our strategic plan: [Increased Collective Impact](#). This means all levels of the organization are working on the same goal – increasing the number of women and girls we reach through our brand unifying Dream Programs. By focusing on what unites us – providing access to education to increase the economic empowerment of women and girls – we will be better known for our work and engage more people in our mission.

Frequently Asked Questions about Our Dream Programs Strategy

Area of Responsibility Soroptimist International of the Americas® (SIA) has a long and proud history of improving the lives of women and girls. **Our common mission of providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment is the number one reason why women join our organization.** Throughout our over 100 years, clubs, regions, and federation have developed and executed myriad projects to achieve this mission. But, as we begin our second century, we need to take stock of the changing environment, the needs of women and girls, and the need to ensure Soroptimist will survive and thrive for another 100 years. For several years, our SIA board of directors has been preparing for our future – studying the landscape, listening to members, plotting our course, developing new strategy.

They envision a future where:

- We meet the needs of more women and girls through our Dream Programs
- We are well known for the impact we have on women and girls
- We attract financial support for our programs
- We engage more people in our mission

We have developed this FAQ to answer questions that have arisen about our strategy of focusing on our 2031 Big Goal: to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education.

We have identified education as the key tool to improve the lives of women and girls. But the word education is defined in multiple ways. What does SIA mean by the word education?

SIA defines education by providing access to formal schooling, knowledge, information and resources to the women and girls we reach. For the Live Your Dream Awards®, access to formal education through schooling or training is provided. For Dream It, Be It®, education is provided through the Dream It, Be It curriculum in conferences or small group mentoring.

Our club continues to participate in the SIA dreams programs, along with our local BCC scholarships and EHS citizenship award.

SI El Dorado, Kansas News (continued)

Small numbers but mighty members!

We sadly lost several members in the last couple years, but the remaining members are ready to attack a new year with new projects and a great attitude. The First Christian Church donates a space to our club for our monthly meetings, so we began this year with members donating non-perishable items for the church's food pantry.



Ways & Means

Thankful Thursday-our club had a bake sale in September, during the monthly event in downtown El Dorado.

It was a nice, warm evening and not only were we able to raise funds for our scholarships, but we got to advertise our club and all the good we do in our community.

Give back-Several businesses in El Dorado have agreed to have give-back nights, donating a portion of their proceeds to our club. Arby's, Spangle's, and Gambino's Pizza are on the list. These are also great social events for club members since we meet and have dinner together on these evenings.

Venue bags-We will sell clear venue bags at the trade fair during the District Meeting being held in Wichita, KS.

Community-We plan to sell Texas Roadhouse peanuts and participate in the Butler County Employee's Christmas Craft Fair selling homemade cookies.

Club Highlights

Our club participated in the community Baby Jubilee in August. This was our second year. Club members donated items for a basket to raffle off. The event is attended by expectant mothers and their support person who can attend a Safe Sleep class and win a pack n' play. Local businesses and various county and state agencies have booths with information and resources for new parents. Our club participates to provide community support, to further advertise our mission, and hand out LYDA flyers to possible candidates.

SI El Dorado, Kansas News (continued)



LYDA posters have been distributed to our local community college to be added to student pipelines. Last spring, our club hosted a series of town halls to increase awareness of human trafficking in community and state-wide. We partnered with local law enforcement agencies, banks, and other businesses to collect items needed for Fresh Start bags. These bags are given to human trafficking victims when rescued from their situation. The bags include new clothes, hygiene items, a diary/ notebook, pens, etc. Bebee Thomas delivered the items to the Sunlight Children’s Advocacy Center.

Socials

On August 18th, members met at the local bowling alley for dinner and a round of mini golf.

Several members, and guests attended Witch’s Night Out Downtown El Dorado, Friday October 10th. The costumes and creativity of community members were amazing! Downtown business stayed open late, served wonderful theme-related snacks and drinks, and gave discounts on purchases. There was even a doll scavenger hunt at the local art museum. It was great fun.

There is a cemetery tour planned for October 25th.



SI Rockwall, Texas News

SI Rockwall Welcomes New Members*



Delia Watts pinned
Catherine Casteel*



Deanna Tucker pinned
Jenni Hakes*



Rhonda Wright pinned Angela Fields*



Ashley Keach pinned
Bethany Janes*



Holly Lyons pinned Becca Buls*



Deanna Tucker pinned Amy
Blumhardt*

SI Rockwall, Texas News (continued)

SI Rockwall Welcomes New Members*



Danna Taylor pinned
Dottie Lett*



Debbie Roan pinned
Trisha Rea*



Holly Lyons pinned
Jacqui Morris*



Frances Roberts pinned Lisa Banta*
Sue Reeves pinned Brooke Conley*



L-R: Lisa Banta, Frances Roberts,
Brooke Conley, Sue Reeves &
Giovann Psolka



Kim Carey will be
inducted at the
November meeting

SI Rockwall, Texas News (continued)

District Meeting



L: Giovanna Psolka, President-elect, SI Rockwall
R: Shebra Hackett, District III Director, SI Grand Prairie



SI Rockwall Representatives
L-R: Giovanna Psolka, Delia Watts, Rhonda Wright



District III Meeting Attendees

SI Grand Prairie, Texas News



In July SI Grand Prairie finalized future events, due dates and general club information for our 2025-26 Yearbook. Each year the Yearbook features the President's message, Soroptimist Vision, Mission, Core Values & Impact, the Soroptimist Pledge and Grace, lists of Charter members, Past Presidents, previous year's Honorees, Official Staff members, Membership Roster with contact information, member photos, a calendar of events, description of committees and their members, Budget, club Bylaws, and club Policies and Procedures.

A list of EMERGENCY contact information is being collected: Name, relationship and phone number. In case of an emergency that person is notified.

We volunteered with the Lion's Club's at their back to school vision program. After an examination by a local optometrist, glasses were ordered for students at no cost! The event also offered booths featuring local businesses, health insurance, financial institutions, social services, etc.



L-R: Tarrance, Marilyn, Shebra, Mary, Dawn, Liz, Alicia, Rebekah, Pat.



Dandreon, Shebra and others

In August, Dr. Dandreon Gray produced the Dallas WOW (Wellness Order and Wealth) event. SCR District III Director, Shebra Hackett was one of the presenters.

SI Grand Prairie, Texas News (continued)



Liz and Marketta

Our first Girl of the Month (GOTM) of the new school year provided attendees with breakfast. Dandreon and Liz spoke about our Soroptimist Mission, awards and numerous events. Each girl received a certificate, rose and gift bag. The girls introduced their guests and talked about their hobbies and educational goals.



Liz, Dandreon, Marilyn with GOTM recipients

As October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month specially we designed coffee sleeves to distribute to coffee and donut shops. Each sleeve highlighted our club's website address and a hot line for those in need. If a coffee sleeve helps just one girl.....



Claudia, Tami and shop owner.



SI Grand Prairie, Texas News (continued)



At the District Meeting current members and transfer members made us 9 strong. Club member and District Director Shebra, worked with Directors Jacqueline and Teresa to make the weekend educational and fun. During the District III meeting ideas were shared. Example: SOS (Sorooptimist Operation Success) provides basic information along with explanations of club acronyms. When hearing "Sorooptimist Speak" new members might be confused. Example: They hear "Dibbie" and wonder who she is. SOS explains "DIBI" is the Dream It Be It program. What acronyms does your club use?

L-R: Ginny, Petra, Debra, kneeling Marilyn, Kelly, right Dawn, Liz, Shebra, Lara

Grand Prairie SOROPTIMIST OPERATION SUCCESS

MISSION
Assimilate in to the global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, especially those facing significant obstacles.

MISSION CONTACTS
SIA Website: sorooptimist.org
SCR Website: sorsorooptimist.org
Club Website: sorooptimist268.scr
Club Email: slg.technology@gmail.com

CALL SIGNS

- SI - Soroptimist International
- SIA - Soroptimist International of Americas
- SCR - South Central Region
- LYDA - Live Your Dream Award
- DIBI - Dream it, Be it
- GOM - Girl of the Month
- The House - 321 SW Dallas St, Grand Prairie, TX 75051 owned by One 23 Holdings!
- Laurel Society - SIA's prestigious program for donors who contribute gifts \$1,000 or more
- Big Goal - Invest in the dreams of MM women and girls through access to education through Dream Programs & Big Goal Accelerator Projects.

GENERAL GUIDE
SURVIVAL GUIDE
GENERAL GUIDE

MEETING BRIEF

- 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month - Zoom available on 2nd
- At Noon (12pm) to 1PM
- Lunch Provided
 - \$5 @ Business Meeting
 - Free @ Program meeting
- "Happy Dollars" internal fundraiser \$1 to tell group anything you are happy about

SCR Region Conference - 2025
SCR District Conference - October

OBJECTIVES

- ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY
- JOIN AT LEAST TWO COMMITTEES
- PICK TWO LUNCH HOSTESS DATES
- ESTABLISH LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS
- BE YOUR UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL SELF!

COMMAND CENTRAL ORDER

- 1 Soroptimist International
- 2 Soroptimist of the Americas
- 3 South Central Region
- District III
- SI Grand Prairie Club #106332



Jacqueline, Shebra, Teresa

SI Grand Prairie, Texas News (continued)

Our October Program Meeting was well attended. Carla Weiland from Camp Summit (formerly Camp Soroptimist) spoke about why the camp was created, how it's funded and who participates. Check out their website; CampSummitTX.org for more details. SI Dallas and surrounding SI clubs (SIGP, and others) were instrumental in its creation. Old camp photos and newspaper clippings reminded us of its history and why it was created. A mother's disabled child was refused admittance to a regular camp. So Soroptimists stepped forward and created a camp specifically for the disabled.



Carla, Debra



Pat, Luz, Carla, Lala, Ginny, Debra, Shebra, Dawn



Meeting Attendees

Plainview, TX News

Soroptimist Plainview celebrated female entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses at a luncheon on Thursday Oct. 9th, 2025. To the women-owned businesses that attended, we thank you for contributing to positive growth here in Plainview. You are a great example to women everywhere!

October is **National Women's Small Business Month**. It's a designated time to recognize the success of women-owned businesses, which have significantly increased in number and revenue generation over the past three-plus decades.

October was designated National Women's Small Business Month in 1988, when the [Women's Business Ownership Act](#) was signed into law. This Act made it illegal to require a male co-signer for business loans, ending discriminatory lending and expanding lending to female entrepreneurs.

This month now raises awareness about the contributions female entrepreneurs and women business owners make to their local communities, their states, and the nation.

Five Fast Facts related to women-owned businesses:

In the U.S. women own about **39%** of all businesses (over 14 million).

In Texas, women own about **43%** of businesses—so a greater percentage than the int U.S. as a whole.

2020 Census data suggest women-owned firms had **\$2.1 trillion** in receipts and **employed 11.4 million people**.

From 2019 to 2023, the growth rate of *women*-owned businesses **outpaced the growth rate** of *male*-owned businesses.

Texas ranks **third in the U.S.** for number of women-owned businesses; that number has grown ~146% over the past 20 years.

Growth among women-owned businesses is particularly strong among minority women. From 2019 to 2023:

- Black/African American women-owned firms' **revenues increased ~32.7%**
- Hispanic/Latina women-owned firms' **revenues increased ~17.1%**

Women-owned businesses that attended the luncheon:

El Mercadito Street Tacos

J & D's Art Time

King Agency Farmers Insurance

Pineapple Eatery

Plainview, TX News (continued)

The Rusty Rose

Jan Alford Insurance Agency

Betty Faye Beauty Bar & Collection 806

Golden Age Financial

Happy Feet and Butiful Within Aesthetics

The Mercantile on Ash

Holistic Haven Health & Wellness

K's Herbal Tea and Crafts

Nature's Way



Plainview Soroptimist members and women-owned business guests mixed at the luncheon. Most Soroptimist members were wearing light blue.



Soroptimist Plainview President-Elect, Cindy McClenagan, gave the National Women's Small Business month facts and statistics to introduce the event

Plainview, TX News (continued)



Renee Crane, President, talked about some of our projects and the Live Your Dream Award application.



Sherry King, owner of King Agency Farmers Insurance.



Debbie Cole and Joy Dalrymple, owners of J & D's Art Time.



Sonya Rodriguez Balderas, owner of El Mercadito Street Tacos.



Natasha "Nat" Denton, chef and owner of Pineapple Eatery.



Andrea Glenn, owner of They Rusty Rose clothing boutique.



Christina Spruill, owner of Golden Age Financial.



Arlen Gomez, owner of Happy Feet and Beautiful within Aesthetics.

Plainview, TX News (continued)



Jan Alford, owner of Jan Alford Insurance Agency and a Plainview Soroptimist member.



Lacey Todd, owner of Nature's Way health food store.



Beckah Hunt, owner of Betty Faye Beauty Bar & Collective 806.



Kylie Renfore, owner of K's Herbal Tea and Crafts



Veronica Salazar, owner of Holistic Haven Health and Wellness.



Ranada Jack, owner of The Mercantile on Ash gifts & décor store and host for our weekly Soroptimist meetings.

SI Greater St. Louis News

YOU'RE INVITED!!

Is your club considering hosting a Bingo fundraiser? Would you like to come see how SI Greater St. Louis does it? We'd love to have you join us for this fun event!

The details are below. Note that tickets will go on sale online on January 1.

Proceeds benefit the "Live Your Dream" Award and our Soroptimist scholarships
Check us out at soroptimiststlouis.com

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

80'S BLACKLIGHT BINGO

OVER \$1200 IN CASH PRIZES! **50/50 AND BASKET RAFFLES**

CHECK THESE DEETS:
When: Saturday, February 21, 2026
Doors open at 6:30pm | Bingo starts at 7:00pm
James J. Eagan Community Center, #1 James J. Eagan Dr.,
Florissant, MO 63033
Cost: \$40 per person or \$300 for a Table of 8
Includes beer, wine, soda | Bring your own bodacious snacks

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

TICKETS GO ON SALE 1.1.26!

SI District Meeting News

Just for fun

How many differences can you find in these two pictures of your Region Board



SCR District Meeting Photos



SI Dallas, TX News

At the October 2025 Districts Meeting, it was formally announced that SI Dallas will be officially disbanded at the end of this year. All current members will transition to SI Grand Prairie at that time. The following highlights the club's history and accomplishments over its 81 years of service.

Soroptimist International Dallas was established on May 20, 1944, marking 81 years of continual contribution as of May 20, 2025.

Camp Soroptimist was the club's initial service project. The Camp was founded by SI-Dallas in 1947 and we owned and operated this camp for the physically & mentally disabled for over 40 years. We gradually began to include community involvement in the camp and ultimately turned the camp over to a community board and then sold the facility. In 2006, we donated the proceeds of the camp facility sale to the Dallas Foundation from which we designate grants from a separate Soroptimist Fund to benefit women & children with special needs. We continue to support the successor camping organization *Camp Summit* through grants from this fund.

We also used the camp facility to hold weekend retreats for women who were victims of domestic violence, working with local shelters to identify those in need.

The Dallas club has participated annually in Soroptimist's *Dream It, Be It* program. Our one-day mentoring and empowerment programs focused on topics such as bullying, drug abuse, how to dress for success, nutrition and more.

The Dallas club has been an active participant in SIA's Live Your Dream Award, typically giving six awards annually. Our awardees have been further recognized at the Region level several times.

The Dallas club has also given out various other local awards each year including:

Betty Jay Award is awarded to teen girls ages 14-18 for exemplary community service

Maxine Broyles is awarded to young women getting their education in a field to work with the disabled

Career Success is a scholarship to a single mother enrolled in a college or university undergraduate degree program or a technical school

Ruby Award is awarded to a woman in the community for exemplary community service

Throughout the years we have also participated in numerous local service projects and most recently we work in conjunction with:

Journey of Hope which is a volunteer organization that helps children, teens and their families recover from the death of a loved one through grief counseling. Our Soroptimist club provides and serves meals to the children, their families and volunteers during group night.

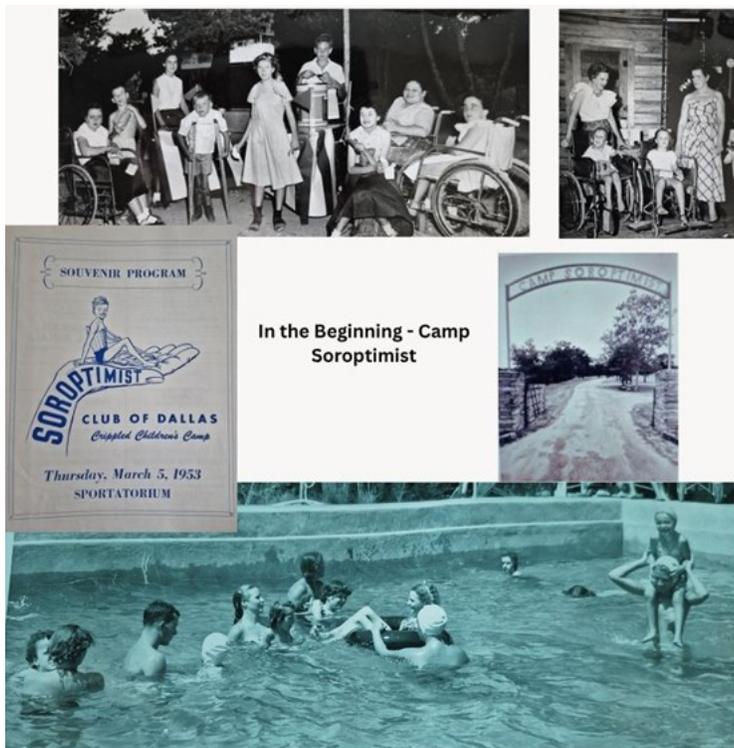
And we have been a long-standing partner with *Gendercide Awareness Project* which is an organization that works to end gendercide by raising awareness and taking effective action.

In 2021 we participated in an international project in conjunction with all the Soroptimist clubs in India and SI Aalst of Belgium. The project was called "Plant Trees for a Brilliant Future" and one hundred indigenous rare varieties of trees saplings were planted in India. Our club also participated in a worldwide forum of Soroptimist clubs addressing climate change.

We also sent an SI-Dallas representative to the United Nations as part of the SIA UN participation.

SI Dallas, TX News (continued)

Throughout the years we have worked in conjunction with various organizations that support our Soroptimist mission. These have included Stand4Sisterhood, Hope's Door, Alleys House, and Loreto House.



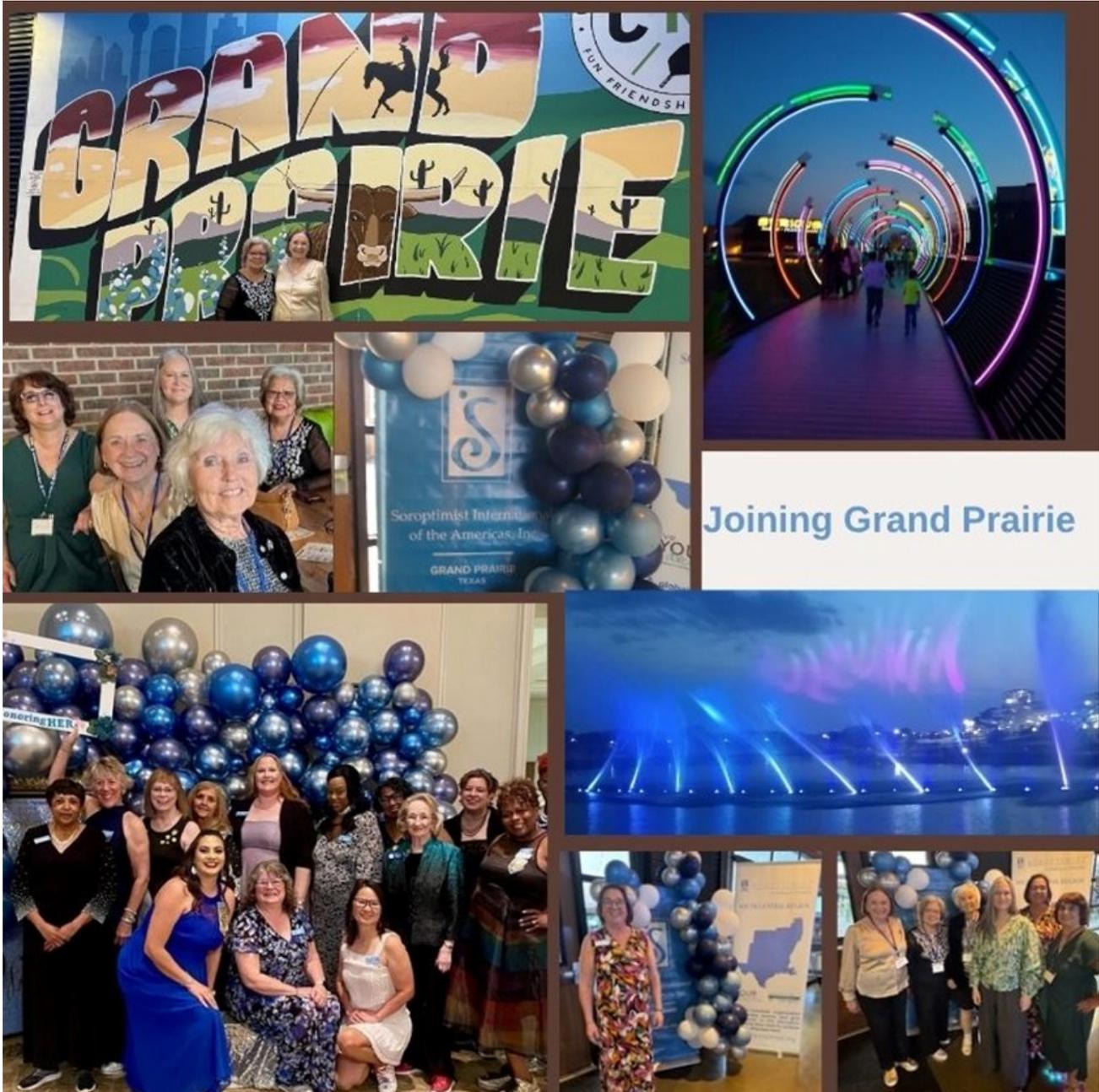
**Soroptimist Club visits
Camp Summit**



SI Dallas, TX News (continued)



SI Dallas, TX News (continued)



Joining Grand Prairie

SI Dallas, TX News (continued)

SI Dallas members, President Ginny Lloyd, Treasurer Lala Gonzales, and Delegate Debra Purdon attended the Districts Meeting held on October 17-19, 2025 in Wichita, Kansas. As part of the Karaoke entertainment, the attending SI Dallas members sang “The Last Dance” and was later joined by the SI Grand Prairie members to signify our joining their Club.

