



## September Meeting Tuesday, September 11 - 5:30 p.m. Two Olives

The program will be presented by new member **Liz Workman**, CEO of Girl Scouts, Kansas Heartland.

Cost of the meal will be \$24.00, inclusive.

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## Engaging to Make Dreams Realities

It is time to officially kick off our Soroptimist year of *Engaging to Make Dreams Realities*. Engagement was a central topic of discussion during our August 11 planning and strategy session. I hope you read closely the summary and action plan from that meeting detailed separately in this newsletter. It will be a great year engaging within our club, the community

and with our partners to fulfill our mission as part of a global volunteer organization that economically empowers women and girls by providing access to education.

The First Fall Meeting of the South Central Regional Conference is another great way for SI Wichita Club members to engage with the Soroptimist Mission. This meeting, different from past regular regional meetings, has an assortment of guest speakers and also a focus on having some "me time" for members. The full Call for the meeting will be emailed separately this week.

This Soroptimist club operates by engaging members in committees. While most committees are in full swing making and executing action plans, there are still a few areas needing leadership. Chief among them is an individual to serve as chair for the 2020 South Central Regional Conference we are co-hosting the SI Eldorado. The main tasks for this year will be to liaison with the El Dorado club and to secure a venue. Other committees still needing leadership are Laws and Resolutions and Historian.

And what a great way to start off our year of *Engaging to Make Dream Realities* by hearing from our own Liz Workman, CEO of Girl Scouts Kanas Heartland at our September 11 meeting. I plan to see all y'all there.

Sherry

- ~ Sherry Grady  
President
- ~ Donna Ard  
Vice President
- ~ Karen Harmon  
Recording Secretary
- ~ Roshelle Ford  
Corresponding Secretary
- ~ Kathy Newsome  
Treasurer
- ~ Leann Barth  
Past President

*An international volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.*

## Dates to Remember

**Tuesday, September 4 5:30 pm**  
Board Meeting  
Candle Club

**Tuesday, September 11 5:30 pm**  
Business and Program Meeting  
Two Olives, 2949 N. Rock Road

**October 1**  
South Central Conference  
and Luncheon  
Quapaw, OK

**Monday, December 3 6:00pm**  
Christmas Gala  
La Vieja, 517 East 10<sup>th</sup> St.

## Thank You, Cleo - End of Summer Social

A great time was had by the attendees of the End of Summer social on August 28. We were especially delighted to have four guests and potential new members join us!

Thank you Cleo Mounday (and Don) for hosting our Summer Social in your beautiful, shady backyard. The food was fabulous, the wine plentiful and the conversation engaging. A



## Meet Carolyn Gerstenkorn



Carolyn Gerstenkorn is a registered nurse who retired from Ascension/Via Christi where she worked in Behavioral Health. She is a nail technician working part time at Salon Brands. She joined Soroptimist while living in Rawlins, Wyoming. As a member of SI/Wichita, she has served as recording secretary, co-chair Ways and Means, president, delegate, recording secretary for District II, and South Central Region Women's Opportunity awards chair.

She enjoys being around her family, friends, reading, traveling, WSU basketball games, activities with church and sorority. After years of having dogs, she is now "owned" by Max the Cat!

She says "Soroptimist has presented her with opportunities she would have never attempted. More importantly, she has met wonderful women working towards the goal of helping women and girls to succeed in life. How great is this!"



### September Birthdays

Mary Herrin	1
Eileen Hawkins	11
Linda Bowles	23

## Gala to be only Fundraiser This Year

With an eye toward hosting the South Central Regional Conference in 2020 and the desire to move up the giving out of Live Your Dream awards, the decision was made for the December Gala to be the single fundraiser this Soroptimist year. The highly successful Hats Off for Women Brunch will be moved to a Fall event beginning in 2019.

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## Gala, Continued

As the single fundraiser for this year, the Gala will incorporate not only the entertaining live auction, but also an expanded selection of silent auction items. We expect expanded guest participation in this year's Gala event. Soroptimist members are encouraged to reach out to those individuals who regularly support our Hat's Off event with an invitation to the Gala, letting them know we are basically "skipping" the Brunch this Spring.

The Gala will be held on Monday, December 3, 2018 at LaVela Venue with a catered meal. Ticket prices, start times, invitations to send to guests and other information will be issued in the coming months from the Ways and Means Committee chaired by Cleo Mounday.

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## Soroptimist of Wichita Summary of Strategic Planning Session

Meeting was held on Saturday, August 11 in the Harvest room at WSU Ratighan Student Center. Members in attendance were: Donna Ard, Leann Barth, Cecelia Davis, Carolyn Gerstenkorn, Sherry Grady, Karen Harmon, Donna Hawley Wolfe, Mary Herrin, Martha Lewis, Jane McHugh, Cleo Mounday, Margery Nagel, Kathy Newsom, Marty Shawver, Marilyn Wells, Cam Wilson.

Discussions on 3 items:

**Fundraising for the next two years.** The Fundraising plan is to change the Hats Off Brunch to the Fall time frame beginning Fall 2019. This means the Christmas Gala on December 3, 2018 will be the only fundraiser for this Soroptimist year. The Gala this year should include invitations to those close we usually invite to the Brunch, with the explanation that there will not be a Brunch this Spring. Gala will be held at LaVela event space (beside the Candle Club), food will be provided. Still checking to see if we can bring our own wine or if it will be a cash bar. There will be an expanded silent auction, as well as a live auction. Planning for the Fall Brunch will be done this Spring.

**Meeting Times and venues:** - Follow up to discussions regarding having lunch time meetings for some months. Decision was to include in a survey question on having lunch meetings during the months of January, February and March 2019.

**Club Giving to other Organizations:** Much discussion around subject of Soroptimist donating to other organizations with views presented between focusing monies on Soroptimist Dream Programs and assisting other organizations with volunteer hours and/or special drives collecting needed items vs. continuing with the Service Grants administered through the Service Committee. Concern was voiced that the total club needed more input into deciding where monies are donated vs. feeling the vote to approve the Committee's recommendation was pro-forma. For this Soroptimist year, the service award grants will continue to be solicited and evaluated by the Service Committee. The Service Committee will present their recommendation to the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting. The discussion and vote by membership will take place one month later at the regular monthly meeting. This allows the membership time to review and question the recommendations and request amendments. Discussion and rich dialogue is encouraged.

## Fall Meeting - October 5-7 Downstream Casino Resort – Quapaw, OK

This is the first official Fall Meeting of our South Central Region, replacing the individual District meetings of the past. The complete official call is a separate attachment to this newsletter. Here are the highlights.

First of all, this weekend meeting is open to non-members. This provides a unique opportunity to recruit or introduce new members to Soroptimist on the larger scale of a Region meeting. The agenda includes great workshops and the opportunity to reconnect with and make new Region friends at meals and in the Hospitality Suite. Other scheduled events include the Friday night Bunko tournament, an Inspirational book exchange on Sunday (bring a book that has inspired you), and an on-going Trade Fair by individual clubs of Soroptimist and other items.

You will also have plenty of free time to enjoy the spa and other amenities of the casino resort or a tour of the Ag Center. So why not pack your swim suit and bring a friend interested in knowing more about Soroptimist to enjoy the weekend with you?

Since this meeting is a collaborative effort among all 3 Districts, there is no official host club responsible for the hospitality room. Clubs in Districts III & I are asked to bring the drinks - either 2 liter bottles of sodas, beer or wine; District II clubs are bringing the snacks.

The venue is just a 3-hour drive away. Please take a moment to read the call and consider joining Kathy, myself and our delegates in attending this casual, fun and informative weekend! The registration deadline is September 26.

Sherry

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## Communication & Marketing Committee

We've been trying to figure out our Facebook page and website which apparently no longer exists. Our thoughts after discussion with President Sherry is that the website should contain items that are relatively static while the facebook page will change frequently. Ideas for the Website include link to SIA, federation and Facebook, mission and objectives, history of Wichita club (PowerPoint), FAQ, area for newsletters added monthly, awards, & scholarships. The Facebook page will include meeting dates and places, fund raising events, photos and the like. The Facebook page would reinforce events and showcase current membership activities.

Our next step is to gather information from several experts in web developing and social media and then recommend to the board someone to help us. We want someone within close access (Wichita preferably) who is willing and able to get us set up in a user friendly website, continue to advise us

on updating the site, and serve as an on going consultant for minimal compensation.

Here's where you can help.

1. If you have any skills in this area (or anxious to learn), we need you to serve on the committee. At present Donna is doing the legwork in Wichita and Marty is in Mexico doing what she can remotely.
2. If you know of someone in Wichita who has the skills we have described please send us their information and a link to any website they may have developed and why you are recommending them.
3. Ideas for inclusion of information on the Website and Facebook. Please send suggestions to Donna at [hawley.wolfe@gmail.com](mailto:hawley.wolfe@gmail.com)

Thanks for your help.

Martha Shawver and Donna Hawley Wolfe



### What We Do

Every year, Soroptimist distributes more than \$2 million in education grants to about 1,500 women all over the world.

Over half of our *Live Your Dream Awards* recipients are survivors of domestic violence, trafficking or sexual assault. Nearly all of the women and families we serve have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, teen pregnancy, and drug or alcohol addiction.

*Live Your Dream Awards* recipients may use the cash award to offset *any* costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation. This unique program is helping women find their voice and purpose while offering the resources they need to succeed.

### Why We Do It

Education is the pathway to economically empowering women and girls.

When Women Learn  
families live healthier lives

When Girls Go to School  
they are more likely to get paying jobs and their financial  
contributions to their families – and their nations – increase

When Girls Have Educated Moms  
they are more likely to be enrolled in school and to  
reach higher levels of education

When Women are Educated  
their countries are more likely to have greater economic growth



**The Soroptimist Ruby Award:  
For Women Helping Women**

**The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women** honors the first federation President Ruby Lee Minar. Ruby is also a gemstone associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, power and love: All words embodying the award recipients.

This award honors women who are making extraordinary differences in the lives of other women. Examples would be a woman who helps to establish a domestic violence shelter, a woman who starts a mentoring program for at-risk girls, or a woman who lobbies her company to provide on-site child care. This program gives our club the opportunity to say “thank you” and encourage others to explore ways to assist women.

A Ruby Award recipient should be a woman who:

- has worked to improve the lives of women and girls,
- has had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls,
- would inspire and encourage other women.

Eligibility:

- A woman in the community who is improving the lives of women or girls through her professional or personal life.
- By identifying and focusing on a need of women and girls, this woman has contributed to the improvement of their lives.
- Although we may honor a woman for a lifetime of good work, the majority of the work should have occurred within the past two years.

*Previous award winners, Soroptimists, and immediate family of Soroptimists are not eligible for the award.*

Think about the other organizations, service or otherwise, you belong to and the types of exceptional women leaders you know. Consider the contributions they make towards the betterment of other women. And then consider them for nomination for the Ruby Award. **The deadline is December 1st.**

To obtain a nomination form, submit a completed nomination form, or if you have any questions please contact me.

*Kathy Newsom  
Service Committee Chair*

### **Past SI/Wichita Ruby Award Recipients**

**2012** Pat Jones, Executive Director of Dress for Success, Wichita, KS

**2013** Peggy Johnson, who was instrumental in bringing the Komen Race for the Cure to Wichita and being an advocate for adequate funding for screening programs and breast cancer research initiatives

**2014** Dr. Karen Countryman-Roswurm, founder and executive director for the Center for Combating Human Trafficking at Wichita State University

**2015** Lynn Gilkey, founder and executive director of Caring Ladies Assisting Students to Succeed – C.L.A.S.S.

**2017** Shellee Morrison, former CEO at Carpenter Place and founder of the Shellee Morrison Christian Learning Center at Carpenter Place.

**2018** Angela Lampe, Executive Director of the Wichita Family Crisis Center (formerly the YWCA of Wichita)

## Community Partners NEWS

Here's the list of our current Community Partners. Each month in the SI Newsletter, I will list some of the ways that we can support our Community Partners. For some of our new members or prospects, I want to highlight one of our community Partners and let you know about their services and how they align with the Soroptimist mission of helping women and girls in our community. This month I included a brief explanation of Carpenter Places program.

Carpenter Place

Catholic Charities, Inc.

Dress for Success

Rise Up For Youth, Inc.

Wichita Family Crisis Center

Wichita Women's Initiative Network (WIN)

WSU Center for Combating Human Trafficking

For Community Partners, Judy Haglund



Students from Shellee Morrison Christian Learning Center at Carpenter Place pictured with the school supplies donated by the members of SI Wichita. Thank you to all members participating in this project for starting off the school year with the necessary school supplies.



P.O. Box 48163  
Wichita, KS 67201  
soroptimistwichita.org

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*Send Newsletter items by the first Tuesday of the month to:*

*Marilyn Hansen, Editor*

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*Wichita, KS 67203-3300*

*316-943-2066 or 316-737-3768*

*[mnfhansen@cox.net](mailto:mnfhansen@cox.net)*

*Linda Bowles, Reporter*

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## Luncheon Social– Sept. 2018

It is time for our monthly lunch socials to resume for the 2018-2019 year. Our lunches are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except for November, December and August. We will have our next meeting at noon on Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> at Ya Ya's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Everyone is welcome to attend and guests are always welcome. No business is conducted, we just enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other better. If you plan to attend please send your reservation to [barthleann@aol.com](mailto:barthleann@aol.com). However, reservations are not required. If you find yourself available at the last minute, we will happily add another chair and enjoy having you there. We know that many of you are on a working lunch break, and you may leave whenever necessary. Hope to see many of you on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Ya Ya's.



*Join us in kicking off*  
*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*  
*at the*  
**Wichita Family Crisis Center**  
**Annual Donor Appreciation Reception**

October 1, 2018 | Abode Venue  
5:30-7:30 | 1330 East Douglas Street  
Wichita, Kansas 67214

RSVP at 316.263.7501  
or [events@wichitafamilycrisiscenter.org](mailto:events@wichitafamilycrisiscenter.org)

*1,695 lives changed last year... all thanks to donors like you*