



*Soroptimist Of
Wyandotte
Southgate
and Taylor*

*Pow
Wow....*

*August 20,
2008*

From the President's Pen

Can you believe summer is almost over? Fall is one of my favorite times of year; I guess I still feel that nervous anticipation of a new year starting. I'm very excited to start this year with the new board!

Our region was again named "Renaissance Region" for the entire Soroptimist Federation. That's a two-year win for us! It means that most clubs in our region have embraced the four areas of Renaissance: Program (women and girls), Membership, Fundraising and Public Awareness. We've tried to accomplish this by making sure every event hits all four areas of Renaissance. To make the best use of our busy schedules we have to optimize our time. That means each event needs to help us reach our goals in these four areas. Every fundraiser should include a membership component, each presentation we do for another group should include information about Soroptimist's programs that help women and girls, every event should be publicized and our mission shared. Working in this way makes the best use of our time.



We'll roll out Governor Mary's goals for the region soon – committees are meeting as you read this and planning an exciting year.

Please join us as we continue the Soroptimist "Renaissance."

Sue Renaud

President, SI-WST 2008 - 2010

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This was such an inspirational speech that President Sue wanted to share it with all of us. Please take the time to read it when you can appreciate the message within.

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Governor Mary Parsigian

Midwestern Region Installation Ceremony

I am honored and very excited to be installed as Midwestern Region Governor. First of all, I see the position as an opportunity to help you with your club projects and activities. And secondly, I view the position as an opportunity for personal and professional growth. I feel privileged to be the successor of Governors of the past who have inspired me through their devotion to Soroptimist. These women have worked hard for their clubs, then for the Region, and then have returned to active service in their clubs. They are excellent examples of commitment to Soroptimist that transcends the honor and responsibility of holding an elected position.

My vision for the next biennium is quite simple. It is to have you, as individual members, experience personal satisfaction as a result of the work you generously give through Soroptimist. I want you to feel energized and enthused because of the valuable contributions you make through your service. I believe a focus on individual satisfaction is important if we are to continue to attract and retain women who place a high value on improving the lives of women and girls. I envision a Soroptimist organization as focused on the fulfillment of the dreams of its members as it is on the dreams of those we serve. I consider this to be not only possible; I believe it is essential.

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In posing powerful questions, we often gain powerful insight. This is a question I pose to each of you: "What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?" You can use the question to focus on your personal dreams, or, as I'm asking you to do tonight, you can use it to focus on your dream of what your membership in Soroptimist could allow you to accomplish. You are women who, by your own choice, have developed a heightened awareness of the needs of women and girls. Your awareness positions you for action. As you consider the question you will begin to discover which of our Soroptimist programs represents a personal priority for you. It might be the educational grants, or working with young women, or social issues where you recognize an opportunity to help women rebuild their lives. It could be fundraising, where you identify resources for your club to use in support of its service projects. It could even be an idea for streamlining the administrative functioning of your club. Posing the question another way: "What service project would you initiate if you knew you would get the desired result? What fundraiser would you plan that would be profitable and be fun for your club members to work on? We have the opportunity to create from our imagination rather than just from our history.

I keep an engraved plaque at the base of my computer screen that reads "what would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?". Every now and then, the clutter on my desk subsides enough that I can actually see the plaque. Considering the question always helps reorient me. It reminds me to concentrate on the things I would like to achieve as a Soroptimist; and it helps me envision projects that would provide opportunities for women in my community. I'm not as skilled as I would like to be at conceptualizing solutions for problems. In fact, the more deeply a problem moves me, the more I can become overwhelmed by its complexities and unable to imagine an answer. By eliminating the possibility of failure, or the complications of how to make things work, I allow myself to dream only of the finished product. By focusing on the end result, one begins to gain insight regarding steps toward a solution.

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As an example, a few years ago, after pondering the question, I envisioned my talented and successful fellow Grosse Pointe club members working one-on-one with the women at Positive Images who need skills, a focus, and, most of all, attention. I shared my idea with other club members to gain the benefit of their experience and expertise. Before long our club had applied for and received a Soroptimist grant to start our resource center and we are still tutoring the women in GED basics every week. We took the dream even further and started a computer lab, a library, and, most recently, a resale store. When our dream finally pulled together into a structured plan of action, we had a project in which we were collectively invested, and from which we all gained individual satisfaction by seeing it come to fruition.

So, even if you do this just to humor me, please ask yourself tonight, "As a Soroptimist member, what would I attempt to do if I knew I could not fail?" Your answer to that question is the fuel for the power of your imagination to begin a project that could change one woman's life. And when one woman's life is changed, she then has the power and motivation to help change another.

A great part of the personal satisfaction of being a Soroptimist is the special camaraderie that we share with one another. As members we have the opportunity to work with women whom we might not otherwise meet – women in completely different fields of employment and from different cultural and economic backgrounds.

Soroptimists are women who share a vision of a better world; we are committed to the empowerment of women. We are dedicated to caring for our family members, yet we are stretching ourselves beyond the family circle to also improve the lives of people we've never even met.

I think one of the most farsighted and prudent strategies of the Soroptimist organization is that we are united under the umbrella of our mission to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world, yet we have the autonomy to interpret that mission within the specific needs of our own communities.

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At the International Convention in Glasgow last summer, it was exciting to talk with members from all over the world who are so similar in their values and goals, yet have channeled those values and goals into dramatically different projects in their countries. While here in the U.S. many of us are working with domestic violence shelters to help women rebuild their lives, Soroptimists in the Philippines are working to bring the very basic necessity of clean water to their villages. At the same time, Soroptimists in Europe are working with women refugees of war to teach them the language of their adopted countries. And in South America, Soroptimists from the cities are working with women in rural villages to help them obtain resources and learn skills that allow them to earn an income.

Traditionally, in almost every society, the potential of women's contributions has been overlooked. The fact that we focus on the needs of women and girls adds great value to our work. Studies have shown that when economic resources, such as micro-credit loans and training in sustainable economic skills, are provided to women in impoverished communities, the women remain in their communities, caring for their children and sharing their skills. Empowering women is the most effective means of caring for entire families and communities for generations to come. The work of Soroptimist helps give women and girls a larger vision of the lives they can lead. We empower and support their actions toward the fulfillment of their vision for their future. Soroptimist is the vehicle for the expression of our commitments and contributions. Inside the vehicle, steering it, is YOU. Your ideas will determine our future. You are the voice and the force for women near and far. You make a difference! The work you do is impacting the lives of women and girls in your communities and, by extension, you are impacting the lives of women and girls throughout the world. I believe our important work can only continue in the long term if YOU derive personal satisfaction from your participation.

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My pledge to you as Governor is to make Member Satisfaction a priority. I am committed to focusing on you, just as you focus on your communities. To enable me to fulfill this pledge I have two requests of you.

My first request is that you ponder again the question I posed earlier, "As a Soroptimist member, what would I attempt to do if I knew I could not fail?" Your answer to that question is your key to finding personal satisfaction from your Soroptimist membership. It will lead you to the manifestation of your vision and your dreams.

My second request is that you communicate with me. Respond to my letters and emails, and send me letters and emails of your own. Share your dream with me and tell me what I can do to help you make it a reality. Ask me about things you don't understand and express your concerns if something disturbs you. I promise you I will be listening.

If we pledge to be mutually approachable, open minded and available to one another, Soroptimist will flourish and we will be able to continue the superior, innovative work, life-changing work that we do.

I thank each and every one of you for your service.

Spotlight on:

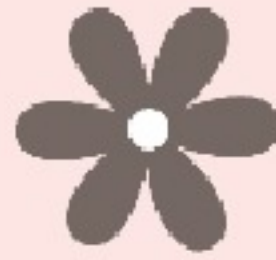
This month's highlight brings us to a hot topic these days --fuel prices. This link will take you to a sample letter to write to congress about revising the charitable mileage rate.

<http://www.soroptimist.org/actnow/actnow.html>

Spotlight on:

Here is a little video clip link, to re-energize us all after having the summer break. This should help motivate us for all the committee planning.

<http://www.soroptimist.org/video/video.html>



What's on the

Web.....

Website List:

Soroptimist of Wyandotte, Southgate & Taylor:

www.si-wst.com

Soroptimist of Midwest Region:

www.simwr.org

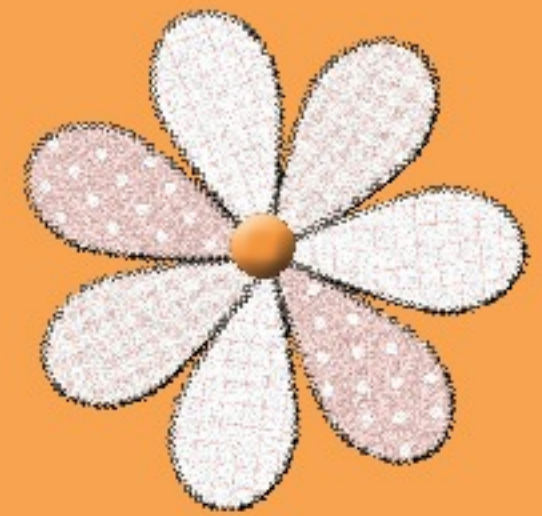
Soroptimist International of the Americas:

www.soroptimist.org

Soroptimist International:

www.soroptimistinternational.org

What's Going On.....



It's time to get our committee's together . As newsletter chair, I would love to have information from your committees to include in the newsletter. Please let me know when you are planning to meet, and any information you would like to share with the club through the newsletter. Here is a current list of committee members.

Hands on Service: ,Chair

Judy Wilder, Lida Chapple, Teresa Bartow

Hands on Contributions: Beth Moore, Chair

Teresa Bartow

Hospitality Committee: ,Chair

Carolyn Mullins, Joanie Broge, Lana Sexton

Installation: ,Chair

Kat Popowicz, Andi Connor, Teresa Bartow

Ways and Means: ,Chair

Cathy Wilder, Angel Gibson, Carolyn Mullins

Public Relations: Lynn Moore Pischke, Chair

Kat Popowicz, Carolyn Mullins

Membership Committee: Pam Bradford, Chair

Angel Gibson

Awards Committees:

Violet Richardson - Teresa Bartow, Group Leader

Virginia Wagner -

Women's Opportunity Award - Kat Popowicz, Group Leader

Making A Difference for Women - Teresa Bartow & Lida Chapple

S-Club Research Committee: Teresa Bartow, Chair

Lida Chapple, Kat Popowicz

United Nations:

Pam Bradford

Finance Committee: Andi Connor, Chair

Judy Wilder

Newsletter: Teresa Bartow, Chair

Beth Moore

Nominating Committee: Beth Moore, Chair

Betty Krimmel

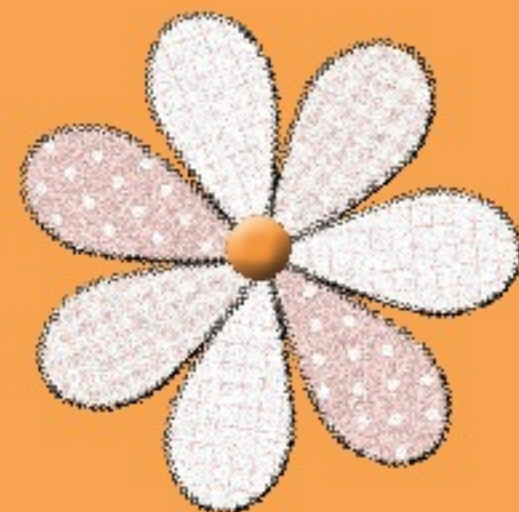
Laws and Resolutions:

Judy Wilder

Stop Trafficking Campaign:

Andi Connor

What Else is Going On.....



Women's Opportunity Award – Kat Popowicz

The quest for applicants for our Women's Opportunity Award has begun. Those of you with email should have received a flier suitable for posting and forwarding. Thank you for doing either (or both). I will have hard copies at the business meeting for those of you who do not have access to email.

President Sue, Lynn Watkins and I spent an afternoon at Southgate's Founders Day Picnic under a tent informing the public about our awards and the club. Pam Bradford brought the club information boards she assembled for the perusal of those interested in more.

My own efforts recently have been to make personal contacts with people in locations where potential applicants might be. I have to say this has been a very rewarding experience. When I speak to women in a capacity to advise potential applicants, there is as much interest in our club (from membership to partnering in service projects) as in the awards.

NEW THIS YEAR; the WOA application is available electronically now. I will have more information on this at our business meeting.

Happy Birthday to:
Angel Gibson - Aug 18
Dee Murrya - Sept. 18
Lynn Watkins - Aug. 19