



Soroptimist Scene

Newsletter - September 2020

President's Message

Hello SI Tampa,

I'm honored to be sending my first newsletter message as club president. Thank you for having the trust and confidence in me to follow in the footsteps of our past club leaders. Thank you also for attending the first meeting of the club year via Zoom. The meeting was very productive, but things sure are different these days. All around us, we're being faced with change. What will September hold for us?

To former northerners like me, September means falling leaves, apple cider, cooler temperatures and swapping out summer clothes for sweaters. I've lived in Florida for eight years, but to me spring will always be the season of rebirth and fall will always be the season of change.

The great Nelson Mandela said that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Sound familiar? This echoes our Soroptimist mission statement and programs. You see, as Soroptimists, we're all about change. As strong women, we are built to embrace change and use our talents to turn the world into a better place.

We're going to do great things this year and, yes, there will probably be constant change. For instance, for the time being, we'll be meeting via Zoom. We'll be holding Lunafest



President Trish Wild

in the comfort of our own homes. We also won't be able to get out into the community for a while, but things will eventually change...again.

This year's autumn club season reminds me of my Pennsylvania days. In the fall, the trees must rest. They have to conserve their energy, but you can be sure that they are still active inside and waiting (planning if you may) for their big spring debut. SI Tampa, too, is in a planning pattern, but we will soon bloom again and it's going to be spectacular!

Yours in Service,
President Trish



Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- New SI Member
- New Southern Region Board
- Upcoming Events

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
SI General Meeting Notes	2
New Member to the Tampa Club	4
Events	4
Your New Southern Region Board	5
Birthdays	6

2020—2021 SI Tampa Board

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Corresponding Secretary
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Soroptimist International General Meeting

July 29, 2020

The annual General Meeting of Soroptimist International was held as a virtual meeting for the first time on July 29, 2020. I had the honor of being accepted as one of over 200 "silent observers" at this meeting, and it was a pleasure to see and hear our international leaders in action. The participants were Soroptimists across the world and many time zones. Soroptimist International President Sharon Fisher from Vancouver, Canada presided over the meeting and began by welcoming and congratulating members of our newest federation, Soroptimist International of Africa. President of the Africa federation Connie Mutunnu and many others from Africa were present at this meeting to represent this new federation. President Sharon introduced the SI Board of Directors and committee chairs. There was a roll call of the five voting members for this meeting which were comprised of the presidents of five federations.

President Sharon quickly addressed business resolutions for this meeting. Resolutions were approved for the Rules of Procedures for the meeting, the adoption of the agenda, minutes of the 2019 General Meeting, the audited financial statement for the year ending December 2019, the appointment of directors, and the appointment of auditors for 2020-2022. The annual report for the year ending December 2019 was approved and will be posted on the SI website.

President Sharon called on several directors to make presentations. Beverly Bucur, Director of Advocacy, reviewed the history of Soroptimist International and the United Nations. Currently Soroptimist has 21 representatives at seven UN centers in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Bangkok, Rome, Paris and Vienna. These representatives attend conferences and meetings and may submit written and oral statements. Members can visit www.soroptimistinternational.org and access over 50 blogs and articles about our advocacy work. Sign up for the newsletter "Our Voice in the UN" for updates and visit the Soroptimist Knowledge Room for current news. This presentation by Director Beverly will also be posted on the SI website.

Immediate Past President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen gave an update on the 2017-2019 President's Appeal: Women, Water and Leadership. Our contributions to the President's Appeal funded projects in Kenya, Bulgaria, Malaysia and Indonesia which are continuing to thrive. These educational projects impacted more than 8,700 individuals to help them break through the cycle of poverty. The final report of this project will be published on the SI website.

The 2019-2021 President's Appeal is "The Road to Equality" which raises awareness about FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). This will include a global media campaign with radio, TV and webinars with the goal to end FGM.

A new communication tool called the Soroptimist Lab has been established through www.mightynetworks.com. This will be an opportunity for Soroptimists across the world to share their experiences, expertise and inspiration with each other. A video about the Soroptimist Lab will be posted on the SI website.

The next SI Convention will take place July 27-29, 2023 in Dublin, Ireland. The theme is "Challenge the Future." There will be five keynote speakers.

Dawn Marie Lemonds talked about the 100th Anniversary Campaign in 2021 with the theme "Bright past—brilliant future." Special events are being planned in each federation. Since the first Soroptimist project in 1921 was to save the redwood trees in California from logging, several of the federations are planning tree planting events, such as to plant 100 trees. A project called #Who is She? will highlight biographies of Soroptimist women. One federation is encouraging clubs to share 100 acts of kindness. A Brilliant Futures Fund is being established to support education for women. I am sure we will hear much more about the 100th Anniversary Campaign activities within our federation.

There is so much happening with the Soroptimist organization on the international level. I encourage all members to visit www.soroptimistinternational.org to subscribe to the Global Voice for Women newsletter and the UN newsletter. This meeting left me with a great sense of community with Soroptimists around the world.

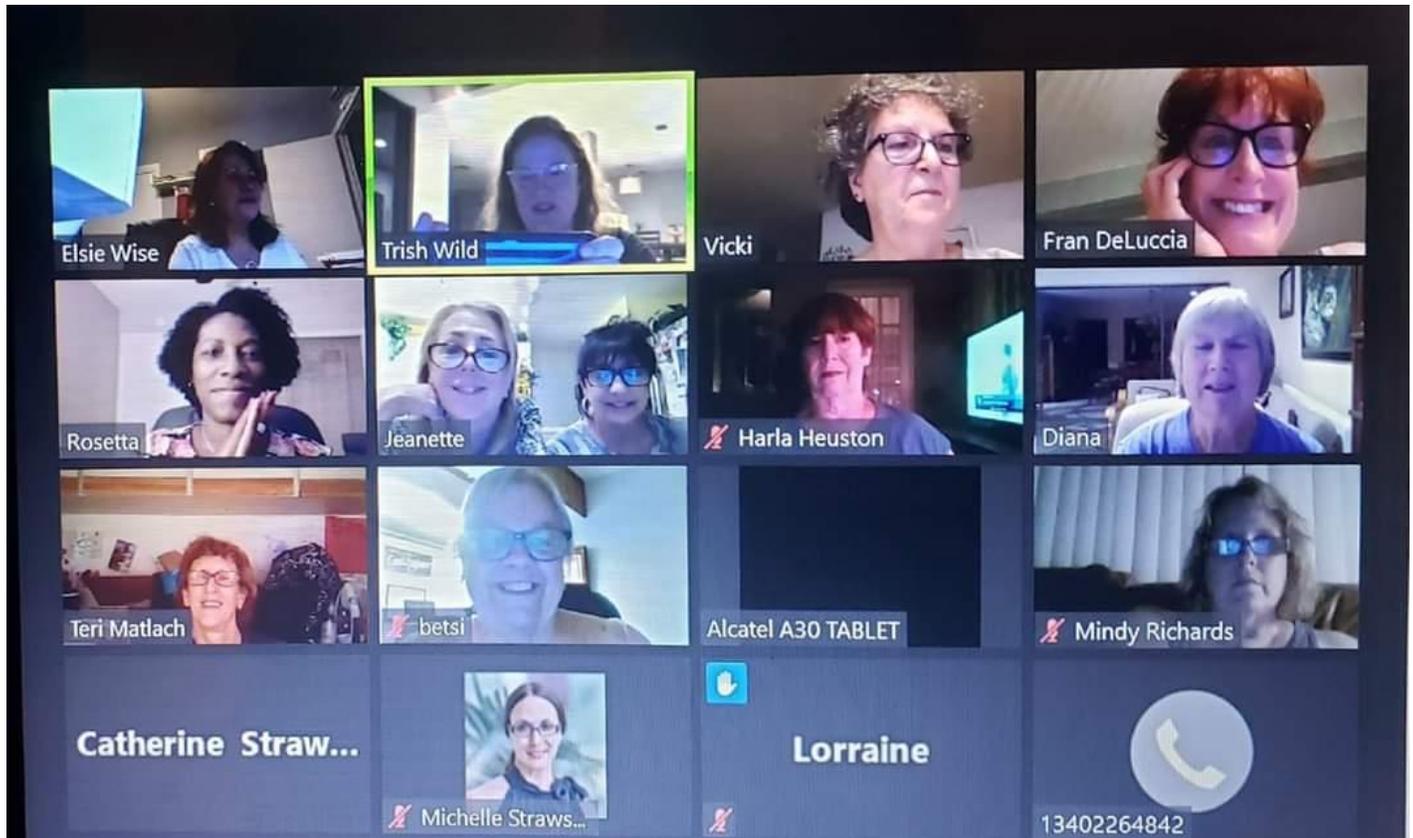
Notes By

Ms. Diana Miller

August Planning Meeting

On August 13th, the Tampa Club met via Zoom to plan and discuss our 2020 ~ 2021 service year. As we continue to be mindful of the current pandemic, how we service our community will be a bit different this year. There are still things we can do and we are looking forward to working within our new normal.

President Trish will keep us updated on our club meeting location. For the month of September we will be meeting via Zoom.



Get to Know Our Newest Member

Maggie Packwood

Ms. Packwood was born and raised in Tampa. She is a graduate of Tampa Bay Tech class of "72". She has two wonderful children, son 41, daughter 38. She worked for State of Florida in Tax Law Enforcement with the Dept of Labor and the Dept of Revenue. She retired 2017, after 37 years of service. She stays active working out, walking, running, biking. She is a past member of Tampa Bay Runners.

Ms. Packwood has completed several 5k runs/walks for Make a Wish and Gasparilla. She enjoys performing arts, sports.

She hopes to fulfill my bucket list and soon be able to travel. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and helping in any way.



2020~2021 SI Tampa Events

Here is a tentative look at upcoming events with the SI Tampa Club. Some dates have not yet been finalized, however, that information will be forthcoming.

- * September 10th ~ SI Tampa Club Meeting**
- * October 6th ~ Human Trafficking Summit Online
- * October 17th ~ LunaFest via Streaming Link
- * December ~ Christmas Party
- * January 26th ~ Light Up The Night 5K, Pasco
- * February ~ Swashbuckler Soiree
- * March ~ Live Your Dream Awards @ The Rusty Pelican
- * April ~ Dream It, Be It One Day Seminar @ The Children's Board
- * April 22nd - 25th ~ Southern Region Conference, Tampa

**** SI Tampa General Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday via Zoom or at the Children's Board when the proper time permits.**

ICYMI ~ In Case You Missed It

Soroptimist Southern Region has a new board! If you missed the installation, have no fear! Here is the Zoom link for you to watch at your leisure! [Southern Region 2020 ~2022 Board Installation](#)



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Parliamentarian
Priscilla Tatarsky

Governor-Elect
Kathy Blanton

Treasurer
Skye Kent

District I Director
Heidi Schaeffer, MD

District II Director
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District III Director
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Governor
Michelle Strawser

Contact Us:

SI Tampa
P.O. Box 271774
Tampa, FL 33688
Email: sitampa@soroptimist.org

Web Address:
www.tampasoroptimist.org



Lorraine Lundy	September 4th
Terry Sue Turner	September 4th
Glenda Williams	September 7th
BJ Scott	September 17th
Rosetta Peacock	September 28th



Save the Date

Be reminded that our Southern Region Conference has been moved to April 2021

More information to come!

**20/20 Vision:
FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE!**

