



Soroptimist Scene

Newsletter - November 2020

President's Message

Hello Tampa Soroptimists,

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, my theme for the month of November is gratitude. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word thankful as feeling "pleased and relieved", while grateful is characterized as "showing an appreciation of kindness." In other words, being thankful is a feeling and being grateful is an action. The feeling of thankfulness is the first step we take towards the act of showing our gratitude. A "thank you note" lets someone know that you feel pleased about something that has been given to you. On the other hand, a "gratitude letter" lets someone know of your appreciation for them or something they have done. Swiss philosopher Henri-Frédéric Amiel summed it up best by penning "Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."

It's impossible for me to feel any sadness or anger when I'm expressing gratitude. Gratitude fills us up in positive ways and makes us much nicer people to be around. An example that comes to mind is something that I learned from my grandfather. Instead of grumbling at oncoming drivers who flashed their headlights at him when he accidentally had his high beams blazing, he responded with a friendly wave and uttered a sincere "thank you" to himself. My grandfather explained that he was grateful that someone took the time to let him know that his high beams were engaged, knowing they could cause a distraction to oncoming traffic, thus preventing an accident.

Enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Prac-



President Trish Wild

tice being both thankful and grateful. It's easy to utter the words "thank you", but expressing gratitude requires a little bit more. As such, thank you for attending our Virtual LUNAFEST event on October 17th. I am so very grateful to be surrounded by such kind and loving women. Your never-ending quest to empower women and girls inspires me to be a better person.

To Cathy Strawser, we love you and are so grateful for all that you do for Soroptimist International of Tampa! The club wouldn't be what it is without you. Please rest and heal. We need you back, serving with us soon.

Yours in Service,

Trish



Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- Southern Region Conference
- Upcoming Events
- LYD
- Christmas is Coming!

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2020—2021 SI Tampa Board

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Cathy Strawser
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LYD

There is still time...

Know a woman who is the head of her household? Is she working on getting back to school or into the workforce? Tell her about Soroptimist's *Live Your Dream Awards* program. A unique education grant for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. *Live Your Dream Awards* give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Applications are being accepted until November 15th. For more information [click here](#).



From The Desk of Your Southern Region LYD Chair, Lorraine Lundy

Let's expand the Soroptimist mission to reach a greater number of women!

If we, the Southern Region, give 30 awards during the 2020 campaign period, we will be entitled to receive funds from SIA to award women at the Region level.

The Federation "Live Your Dream " Goal and Change for the Award.

This change supports our next Big Goal. Our organizational goal to be well known for our brand unifying global Dream Programs, and our program goal of increasing the number of women served by our Live Your Dream Award: Education and Training Grants for Women®.

Check it out!

- This new funding model will incentivize giving out more awards to more women, which will help us achieve our 2021-2031 Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. If the goal is to encourage more awards to be given, distributing region awards based on the number of club awards given will better support that goal.

- It makes the competition for the region-level awards fairer—women will be competing for awards based on how many other women received an award in that region, not how many clubs are participating.

- Aligning our program budget with contributed income makes fiscal sense. For years, we have relied on investment income to fill the gap between contributed income and program costs and have not successfully closed that gap despite a concentrated effort to encourage regions, clubs, and individual members to make SIA their charity. of choice. *Making SIA our charity of choice means regions, clubs and individual members stop giving to other organizations and give to our own mission and global programs that deserve our financial support.*

Let's go, SI Tampa!

Well Wishes for Cathy!

As you may have heard, our Cathy Strawser has been a bit under the weather. I am certain that you would love to be able to send her well wishes as she starts her journey toward healing and feeling better.

Feel free to send cards and letters to:

Advent Healthcare Center Zephyrhills North

7350 Dairy Rd

Attn: Cathy Strawser - Room #E9A

Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Direct room phone number:

(813)364-5135

SI Tampa Calendar

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.



- * December ~ Christmas Party
- * January 26th ~ Light Up The Night 5K, Pasco
- * February ~ Swashbuckler Soiree
- * March 27th~ 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.**

It's HERE!!!

The 94th Southern Region Virtual
Conference and Fall Meeting

Our 2020 Conference/Meeting Agenda

Friday October 30, 2020:

Pre-recorded Messages from SIA President Penny Babb, Immediate Past Governor Caroline Williams, & Governor Michelle Strawser

Noon - 1:30 PM EST - Governor's Virtual Zoom (by invitation only)

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM EST -Virtual Zoom Happy Hour with COSTUME CONTEST!

Saturday October 31, 2020:

Pre-recorded Governor Service Award videos (to be voted on during the week of Nov 2nd - Nov 6th by delegates only)

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM EST -KEYNOTE Speaker Lisa Manns Human Trafficking Discussion - "Through the Eyes of a Parent"

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM EST - Virtual Zoom Pillar Presentation

Sunday November 1, 2020:

Pre-recorded Celebration of Life

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST - Virtual Zoom Awards
Presentation

***Live Sessions notated in Red
(Live Sessions will be recorded)**



December 10th President's Appeal "Ending FGM on the Road to Equality"



In recognition of the United Nations Human Rights Day on December 10th, each president of Soroptimist International selects a service project that is dear to her heart. Members and clubs in the five federations around the world are asked to contribute to support this project. Our current SI President Sharon Fisher has asked Soroptimists to address the continuing campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for the 2019-2021 biennium. In this current project Soroptimist International has partnered with the Global Media Campaign to end FGM to advocate against "the cutting of girls" in Africa.

In a webinar on October 15, 2020 President Sharon focused on this issue and shared information about this project. Through the Global Media Campaign, 100% of funds raised for this project go to support local grassroots advocates in countries where FGM is most common including The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Mali, Kenya and Guinea. Where once advocates went door-to-door to talk to families about FGM, now they receive training on how to discuss this previously taboo subject and how to use radio, television and social media to reach a larger audience. They learn to work with journalists, prominent community members, religious leaders and traditional rulers to help people understand FGM and to end this practice for young girls. Call-in radio shows are one of the most popular means of teaching about this practice, and local leaders are essential to helping to change community attitudes. A short film about this campaign is available at <http://globalmediacampaign/video>. A one-hour recording of this webinar is also available on the Soroptimist International website.

In November can you find a way to save \$1 a day to support this President's Appeal? That's just \$30. All the funds will go directly to support the work of local advocates and to buy airtime for their message. In this way millions of people can be reached to change community attitudes about FGM. Please bring your donations for the President's Appeal to our Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 5 or mail your check to Treasurer Glenda. And when you do, I hope that you'll feel a kinship with Soroptimists around the world who are working together to end FGM.

*From the Desk of
Diana Miller*



Christmas is Coming!

Let us be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas! Yes, I know that December isn't here yet, but it's just around the corner. And we have plans to make for our Christmas family. Each year our Soroptimist members adopt a family for Christmas and provide gifts and toys along with a grocery gift certificate. This year our family was recommended by the guidance counselor at Mort Elementary School. This family includes a single mom with four young children ages 5 to 10. The mother lost her job in customer service



when the economy shut down for the Coronavirus, but she hopes to go back to work soon. In the meantime, she is thankful for some help with Christmas gifts for the children. Look for an email soon with details about the children and how you can sign up to help.

This year also provides a unique opportunity to help the larger community around Mort School. You see, this school also maintains a

clothes closet and food pantry for their families with urgent needs. If you can, please consider making an additional contribution of children's clothing and non-perishable food to replenish these resources. Do you have a child or grandchild in the family that has outgrown some clothes or shoes that could be donated for others? Could you purchase a few extra items at the grocery store to help replenish the food pantry? Think about staples like cereal, rice, beans, peanut butter and jelly. All would be appreciated! Surely, this will help us all get into the Christmas spirit.

Contact Us:

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Deborah Pruden

Novemder 2nd



Got news?

Share it in our next newsletter.

Send your correspondence to Rosetta at www.rmandisa@yahoo.com by the 20th of the month