



Soroptimist International of  
Phoenixville

# **Soroptimist International of Phoenixville**

**Winner of the 2013 North Atlantic  
Region's Governor's Cup**

**Handbook 2015 - 2016**

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# — BACKGROUND —

## Vision

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

## Mission and Core Purpose

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

## Core Values

Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

**Gender Equality**: Women and girls live free from discrimination.

**Empowerment**: Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.

**Education**: Women and girls lead full and productive lives through access to education.

**Diversity & Fellowship**: Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

## Who Is A Soroptimist?

She is a leader in her community - a woman who supports SIA's mission of improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. She believes that by joining with other women and engaging in awareness, advocacy and action in the service of her community and society, she can and will make the world a better place for humankind.

SIA empowers clubs to be inclusive rather than exclusive when growing their clubs.

## — PRESIDENT’S GREETING —

Welcome to Soroptimist International of Phoenixville! You are part of a great organization of sisters around the world who strive to help women and girls achieve their goals and live safe and healthy lives. Your membership in the club is an honor.

The Phoenixville Soroptimists are involved in several local and national activities. The club gives approximately \$7000 in scholarships annually to girls seeking post-secondary education. We have provided assistance to several local non-profits that assist our benefactors, such as Mom’s House, Home of the Sparrow, Stephanie’s House and Phoenixville Women’s Outreach. Our Love of Reading Program provides classroom libraries in local schools, and the Holiday Giving Program allows a needy family to enjoy a bountiful Christmas.

You can be a part of our fund-raisers and programs by volunteering to participate on one our committees. Or propose a new one that helps us meet our mission. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Once again, welcome to Soroptimists International of Phoenixville and our community of talented, energetic and philanthropic sisters.

Sincerely,

Maria Schwab, Ed.D.  
President 2014-2016

# — MEETING LOGISTICS —

## Meeting Time and Location

SI Phoenixville meets the **first Wednesday** of every month at:

### **Rivercrest Golf Club and Reserve**

100 Golf Club Drive

Phoenixville, PA 19460

## Grace

For the bread upon the board, make us truly thankful Lord,  
for each one meeting here, whom our hearts hold close and dear,  
for this day, O Lord above, now accept our grateful love. Amen.

## Pledge

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist and to the ideals for which it stands:  
The sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service,  
the integrity of profession, and the love of country.  
I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals,  
for a larger fellowship at home,  
in society, in business, for country and for God.

# — MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS —

## Dues and Fees

**SI Dues/Fees** - Payable upon receipt of the invoice, usually by June meeting.

The Treasurer must pay the invoices from Soroptimist International of the Americas and North Atlantic Region by July or incur a penalty.

Membership dues breakdown:

**SIA** – Each Member dues, plus a per Capita \$5.00, Liability Ins. \$3.00, Founder Pennies \$5.70

**NAR** – Each Member dues, plus Ethel F. Lord Fellowship fee of \$1.00. Club shares District Meeting \$45.00 and Spring Conference \$65.00 Fees

## Attendance Requirements

To be considered a member in Good Standing a member must attend one out of every three business meetings. **Members who respond to attend a meeting and then do not cancel by noon on Tuesday will be billed for their meal.**

# — OFFICERS AND CONFERENCES —

## Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**

**2014-2015 President:** Poco Davis

**2014-2015 President Elect:** Susan “Sam” Buchenau

**SIA Headquarters Executive Director:** Liz Lucas

1709 Spruce St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-893-9000 Fax: 215-568-5200

[siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org)

## SIA North Atlantic Region

**Governor:** Bernadette McElroy

**Governor Elect:** Tammy Klotzbach

**Secretary:** Paula Austin

**Treasurer:** Carol Lundrigan

## SIA District 3

[For more information online, <http://www.soroptimistnar.org/districts-clubs/>]

**Director:** Joyce Warne

[D3director@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3director@soroptimistnar.org)

**Secretary:** Phyllis Sampson

[D3Secretary@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Secretary@soroptimistnar.org)

**Live Your Dream Award:** Patti Yuengling-Hall

[D3WOA@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3WOA@soroptimistnar.org)

**Girl Program Award:** Linda Marie Bell

[D3VRA@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3VRA@soroptimistnar.org)

**Membership:** Patti Hall-Yuengling

[D3Membership@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Membership@soroptimistnar.org)

**Laws & Resolutions:** Shannon Jefferson-Stellato

[D3Laws@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Laws@soroptimistnar.org)

**Credentials:** Betty Thierry

[D3Credentials@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Credentials@soroptimistnar.org)

**Nominating:** Betty Thierry

[D3Nominating@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Nominating@soroptimistnar.org)

**Finance:** Betty Thierry

[D3Finance@soroptimistnar.org](mailto:D3Finance@soroptimistnar.org)

## **SI Phoenixville**

**President** – Maria Schwab

**Vice President** – April Klotzbach

**Treasurer** – Betty Thierry

**Asst. Treasurer** – Rachel Perez

**Secretary** – Juliann Ewing and Alyson Schwab

### **Board of Directors**

Karen Coldwell

Cindy Bartholomew

Janel Work

### **Delegates**

Kathy Stapola

Linda McBride

Mary Colarusso (alternate)

## **Regional Conferences**

**NAR District 3 Fall Meeting:** October 24, 2015 – SI of Central Jersey Coast

**NAR Spring Conference:** April 29 – May 1, 2015 – Saratoga Springs, NY

**20<sup>th</sup> SI International Convention:**

**44th Biennial Convention:** July 20-23, 2016 – Orlando, Fla.



## — EXECUTIVE BOARD —

The **President** shall within thirty (30) days after taking office; appoint the chairman of each standing committee, appoint from time to time such special committees as she deems necessary, submit annual reports of the progress of the club, and perform other duties as are prescribed in the Bylaws and/or Procedures or that usually pertain to her office.

The **Vice President** shall serve as the chair of the Program Committee and shall monitor the obligations of all the committees and assist the various chairpersons in developing their reports.

The **Secretary** shall keep a correct and true record of all business meetings of the Club and of the Board, file and preserve reports and records, and report on the recommendations of the Board to the Club at the next regular business meeting. She shall conduct all correspondence and keep copies of the same and perform such duties as prescribed and pertain to her office.

The **Treasurer** shall collect all fees and dues and receive all monies belonging to the Club; deposit same in a bank designated by the Board; pay all bills covered by the approved budget; sign all checks; remit promptly to the Federation and the Regional treasurers the per capita dues and assessments; render a monthly written report at the business meeting of the Club; submit a year-to-date report at the annual business meeting; complete such Federal and State tax forms as required by law; deliver her books for audit no later than July 10<sup>th</sup> following her term of office; and perform such duties as prescribed by the Bylaws, or as usually pertain to her office. She shall complete Federation form 5008 in triplicate on new members and changes on other members and submit to Federation and Region with any monies required. The Treasurer is not authorized to pay out any money for any purpose other than those specifically designated.

## **DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

The Board shall have administrative control over the affairs, funds and property of the Club, except that of modifying any action taken by the Club. It shall authorize payments from club funds (except as hereinafter indicated) act upon invitations to membership, forfeitures, resignation and cancellations; submit policy recommendations to the Club; and perform such other duties as the Club or the Bylaws and Procedures may require.

The Board shall have special authority as follows:

1. Failure to perform duties of an office or Board membership shall be considered cause for removal from the elective position. Before action is taken the Board of Directors shall notify the officer or Board member of the specific failures with which she is charged and shall request her appearance before the Board at a specific time. After her appearance and answer, or in the event of her failure to appear, the Board, by a two-thirds vote, by ballot taken when the officer is not present, may declare the office vacant.
2. At the discretion of the Board, determined by two-thirds vote by ballot, failure of a chairman of a committee to perform her duties shall be considered cause for the forfeiture of her chairmanship and the appointment of her successor.

The Board shall consider the reason for a member's absence of four (4) consecutive meetings and proceed with necessary action.

## — CLUB COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS —

### Fundraising Groups

**Basket Bingo:** In the fall, this fundraiser sells tickets to a bingo event with raffle baskets and food. ***Chairs: April Klotzbach and Rachel Perez***

**Fashion Show:** In the spring, this fundraiser sells tickets to a luncheon and fashion show with raffle baskets at Rivercrest Country Club.  
***Chairs: Betsy Ryan***

**Shoebox:** Since 2013 and throughout the year, this fundraiser collects used and donated shoes to package and send to give to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and providing our club with \$20 per box. ***Chair: Tammy Klotzbach***

**Golf Outing:** Held annually in the fall, this fundraiser sold tickets to a 9-hole golf tournament and sold tickets to non-golfers to enjoy the luncheon and raffle baskets that followed. ***Chair: Andrea Giardina***

**Restaurant Night:** New in September 2014, this fundraiser brings SI sisters and friends together at the local restaurant. A percentage of all food, purchased is donated toto the clubby the establishment.. ***Chair: April Klotzbach***

**Boscov's Day:** In the fall, club members sell tickets to Boscov's Day coupons that provide a 25% discount on all merchandise, in addition to a chance to win prizes. All proceeds from the sales benefit the club's activities. ***Chair: Andrea Giardina***

**Duck Race:** Kiwanis Club of Phoenixville provides a percentage of profits from the Duck Race Pluck event to the club. Members are asked to assist with sales. ***Chair: Karen Coldwell***

## Donations Groups

**Toiletries:** Throughout the year, SI collects travel size toiletries which are packaged and donated to local shelters, which provide housing to homeless and low-income women and children. ***Chair: Kathy Spatola***

**Collections at Meetings:** New in 2014, each meeting of SI Phoenixville has a focus for collections to donate to local groups in need.

***Chair: April Klotzbach***

## Recruitment Groups

**New Membership:** All new members are asked to contact the Chair for more information on the club and to be connected with other members.

***Chair: Karen Coldwell and Betty Thierry***

**Nominations and Elections:** Every two years, elections are conducted within the group to select the new Executive Board. ***Chair: Katie Bean***

## Service Groups

**Make a Difference Day:** Each year, a hands-on service project is developed for the group to participate in together. ***Chair: Katie Bean***

**Dream It Be It:** SI of Phoenixville participates in the Dream It, Be It – a mentoring program for high school girls. The club collaborates with other organizations in the community to deliver the curriculum and promote the mission of Soroptimists.

## Scholarship Groups

### **Live Your Dream Award (formerly Women's Opportunity Award):**

Eligible applicants must be women who provide the primary financial support for their families, and who are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. We accept applications all year long through Dec. 1. Awards are announced in the Spring. **Chair: Andrea Giardina**

**Violet Richardson Award:** Named for the president of the first Soroptimist club, the Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award honors girls who are making a difference through volunteer service, such as working to end discrimination and poverty, assisting women and children who are victims of domestic violence, or mentoring young girls. Applications are accepted through the year until Dec. 1. **Chair: Mary Colarusso**

**Academic and Arts Scholarships:** Our club awards scholarships each year to two female high school seniors. The Academic Scholarship is awarded to recognize a student who has been accepted into a post secondary institution to major in any academic area. The Arts Scholarship is awarded to a student who has been accepted into a post secondary institution to major in any area of the arts. **Chair: Amber Gentile**

**Citizenship Scholarship:** The Citizenship Scholarship is awarded to a female high school senior who has demonstrated a commitment to her community through active engagement in volunteer services. **Chair: Linda McBride**

**Patsy Mink Award:** New in 2015, our club awards a scholarship to a local high school female who cannot afford to purchase the items needed to play a sport. The scholarship money goes directly to the equipment, uniforms or fees to play that sport. **Chair: Maria Schwab**

## — DID YOU KNOW? —

**Fun Fact:** Soroptimist gives about 1.6 million dollars A YEAR to about 1,500 women. Over \$25 million has been given since 1972 to over 30,000 women! Recipients of SI awards demonstrate the following after receiving the award:

- **63%** have higher paying jobs
- **79%** entered a helping profession
- **79%** have higher standards of living
- **98%** report higher self esteem
- **92%** report being a positive role model to children

**There are 4 Federations of Soroptimist encompassing 120 countries.**

**We are in SIA: Soroptimist International of the Americas**

SIA has more than 1,400 clubs in 19 countries and territories.

**We are NAR: North Atlantic Region**

(Regional project: Domestic Violence awareness)

—North Atlantic Region includes 5 states: PA, NY, NJ, DE and WV—

**We are District 3**

District 3 includes eastern Pennsylvania and 10 clubs.

**We are SI Phoenixville**

SI Phoenixville was chartered as a club by Grace Yarnell Hadfield in 1945

# SI PHOENIXVILLE PAST PRESIDENTS

‘A leader is one  
who knows the  
way, goes the  
way, and shows  
the way.’

-John Maxwell

Maria Schwab

Karen Coldwell

Patricia Woodson

Tammy Klotzbach

Linda McBride

Marie Louise Kier

Margaret Seagrave

Eileen Naughton-Russell

Kathryn Grocki

Margaret Kelly Macdonald

Lee Yenchick

Theresa Bodick

Francis Stone

Aina Novitski

Ann Louise Rosmos

Helene Rambo

Margaret Caine

Grace Yarnell Hadfield

