

Soroptigram



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

President's Message:

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday with family and friends. I also hope you have been enjoying our winter weather. There has been little challenge in getting about and if you are not out and about, It is wonderful to look out and see the crystal white ground and the gentle falling of snowflakes. As we begin 2025, I hope you are looking forward to the start of the New Year, with all of its challenges.

This year we are challenged to update our Weaver Scholarship application and put together a Dream it Be it program. We are planning to partner with the Salvation Army on a Career Day for girls in the 8th grade. Due to personnel issues at SA we are moving forward to plan the day and hopefully present it at their facility at 29th Street in Harrisburg. At this time we are looking for women in diverse fields to present. Some suggestions are an Architect, Carpenter, Fireman etc. We would like to offer the girls a vision of what is possible. When we have spoken to girls in the past they all wanted to be beauticians or go in the fields of child care. We will have a physical activity such as Zumba or Yoga along with snacks and a tote bag to collect whatever information may be distributed. If you have any ideas or know of someone who would fit this bill let us know.

Maria has coordinated our next meeting, January 28, to be held at 1 o'clock at the East Shore Branch of the Dauphin County Public Library in Colonial Park. We have put an invitation out to the public and our focus for this meeting will be membership. Our collection and hands on project will be material for Caitlin's Smiles. I hope to see all of you there and am looking forward to seeing new faces to share our mission and vision with.

Happy New Year,
Marybeth

JANUARY'S MEETING

PROGRAM

Membership

INSPIRATION

Susan Wolfe

MONTHLY COLLECTION

**Play-Doh and coloring
books for Caitlin's
Smiles**

**HANDS ON—Kits for
Caitlin's Smiles**

DATE: January 28

TIME: 1 PM

**PLACE: East Shore
Branch of DCLS**

DINNER COST: \$20

Calendar of Upcoming Events



January 28 — Lunch
meeting, 1 PM East Shore
Branch, DCLS

May 2-4, 2025 — NAR
Spring Conference, Glen
Falls NY

February 11—Board
meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

February 25 — Lunch
meeting, 1 p.m. Location
TBD

January Meeting



In January:

We will discuss upcoming projects (Dream-It-Be-It and Weaver Scholarship promotion) as well as work on Kits for Caitlin's Smiles. Our January collection will be small Play-Doh canisters for Caitlin's Smiles and Coloring books.

We hope to have some visitors who attended the MLK event at East Shore Library in early January and expressed interest in learning more about our club. Come ready to welcome them and discuss how membership has provided you will an outlet for volunteering and helping women and girls.

SOROPTIMIST UPLIFT HER!

As we move into the new quarter, SIA's focus for SoroptimistUpliftHer is now focused on the prevention of Human Trafficking.

According to WHTM– Multiple Midstate counties are ranked in the top 10 for most human-trafficking offenses filed across Pennsylvania, according to a report from PACourts.

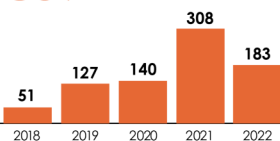
Human Trafficking
in Pennsylvania

info share
PACOURTS

Human trafficking is a type of human rights abuse where people profit from the exploitation of others – mainly through the use of **force, fraud or coercion** to manipulate victims into engaging in sex acts or labor/services in exchange for something of value. Those under age 18 who exchange sex for something of value are human trafficking victims, regardless of whether force, fraud or coercion is involved.

286 human-trafficking cases were filed over the past five years.

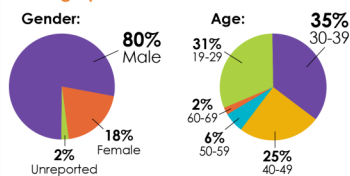
809 total human-trafficking offenses were filed:



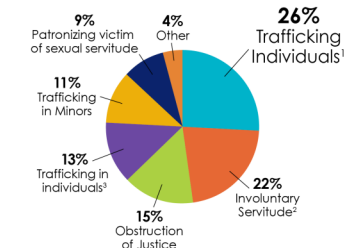
Victims of human trafficking may:

1. Not have access to their own **travel or ID documents**
2. Not be in control of their own **financial records, money or bank account**
3. Have very few **personal possessions**
4. Work excessively **long/unusual hours** with little or no pay
5. Not able to clarify **their address/living situation**

Demographics of defendants convicted:

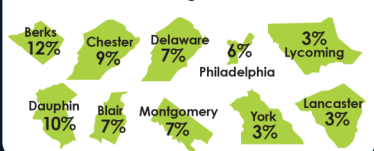


Types of offenses:



¹ recruits/entices/solicits
² duress through force, debt coercion, physical restraint, etc.
³ benefits financially

Counties with highest number of human-trafficking offenses filed:



All human trafficking data from 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2022. Human trafficking offenses filed and disposed as convictions as recorded in Pennsylvania's Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) and Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS). Title 18, sections 3002 (A), 3012 (A, B) – 3113, 3016, 3015 (A, A1, A2), 3011 (A, A1 – A3, B) and 3014 (1, 2).

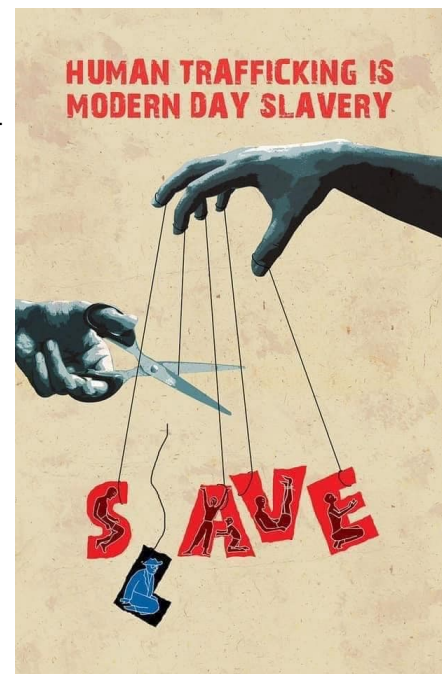
AOPC

PACourts released data highlighting the counties in Pennsylvania with the highest number of human trafficking offenses, and multiple Midstate counties made the top ten list – with two taking the number one and two spots.

According to the data, 1,235 human trafficking offenses were filed on 366 offenses over the past five years. While the numbers have been decreasing statewide, Central PA is still high.

Let's highlight the ways to bring these offenses down in the coming months by talk-

ing about the issue and sharing SIA posts about it on Facebook with our friends and acquaintances!



Soroptimist International of the Americas

SIA Convention: We are excited to announce that SIA will host its 49th Biennial Convention in the vibrant city of Incheon, South Korea, from July 22 to 25, 2026. This four-day event is an excellent opportunity to build lifelong friendships, participate in enriching workshops and celebrate Soroptimist's significant global impact on transforming the lives of women and girls.

To address the rising costs

of hosting in-person events, the declining number of clubs, and to mitigate any potential deficit for the convention, the SIA Board of Directors has approved a \$25 increase in the mandatory convention club fee, bringing the total to \$825.

Our Club will be expected to pay this amount in 2026. This is just an early notice so we can adjust our budget to handle this.

LIVE YOUR DREAM

The LYD Committee is reviewing the seven applications received by the deadline and will submit our club winners to the region by February 2.



FUNDRAISING



GIANT GROCERY CARDS: Treat a senior citizen, family member or give a gift to a family or individual in need to assistance. Giant grocery cards can be purchased in amounts of

\$25, \$50 and \$100 by contacting Jacalyn Speaks at jcspeack@aol.com. The club receives 5% of the value of cards sold to use towards our projects.

SIA Women's Tea



We are delighted to invite you to SIA's Fourth Annual International Women's Day Virtual Tea Party on March 10 at 8 p.m. (ET).

This year's theme is #AccelerateAction. Why accelerate? The World Economic Forum estimated that it will take 133 years to reach full gender parity.

Can't wait until the year 2158? Then join us to discuss ways to accelerate our action in achieving economic empowerment for women and girls!

Come to the event with your own tea party dress attire! This can be country-specific traditional attire for teas or your best hat/fascinator, pearls and gloves. Whether you're enjoying your favorite tea, coffee or another beverage of your choice, we'll be united in spirit to honor the strength and resilience of women.

NAR GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES OFFICE HOURS VIA ZOOM

NAR Soroptimist is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NAR Gov Beth Office Hours via Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 22, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Fourth Wed, until Nov 26, 2025, 11 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/84766358732?pwd=zKdAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=Y2qIPQoRQEaOsB46jlxOUg>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84766358732?pwd=zKdAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=Y2qIPQoRQEaOsB46jlxOUg>

Meeting ID: 847 6635 8732

Passcode: 143370

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg's Mission

The Harrisburg Club's mission is to use our time, talents and resources to advance the status of women and children. To accomplish this mission, we establish and support specific projects to address the needs locally, regionally and internationally.



Soroptimist International of Harrisburg

We are on the web at:
www.si-harrisburg.org

SOROPTIGRAM DEADLINE:
The first Wednesday of
each month.

Editor: Alice Lubrecht

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg PA Inc

2024-2025 Officers and Board

President: Marybeth Lehtimaki
Recording Secretary: M Susan Wolfe
Corresponding Secretary: Patti Krow
Treasurer: Alice Lubrecht

Directors:

Billie Hawk 2024-2026
Jackie Speaks 2024-2026
Joan Gibson 2024-2025

Delegates:

Joan Gibson 2024-2026
Sally Straining 2024-2025