



SOROPTIMIST®

## **Soroptimist International of Harrisburg** **SOROPTIGRAM Club Newsletter ... May 2026 Issue**

### **Investing in Dreams**

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Soroptimist International of Harrisburg. We are proud to share news, programs, and opportunities that reflect our commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in our community and beyond. Through advocacy, volunteer service, and educational support, our club continues to build pathways to empowerment and opportunity.

## **Our Mission**

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg is part of a global volunteer organization dedicated to providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Founded in 1938, the Harrisburg club has a long tradition of service in the Greater Harrisburg area, supporting women through scholarships, awards, literacy efforts, and partnerships that promote safety, health, and personal growth.



### ***President's Message...Marybeth Lehtimaki***

May, for many, the month of May prods us, to thoughts of remembrance. We start the month with some fun May Day with May Pole dances and May baskets as little gifts to remind us of friendships. Then we move to May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you for all of you Star Wars fans. Speaking of fans, watch for a new adventure coming out in theaters later this month. We follow all of this and honor our Mothers on Mother's day and our veterans on Memorial Day.

There is so much more to remember and celebrate:

- For those of us who worked in education, May also includes Teacher Appreciation Day. In addition to honoring our retirees, we should thank those who continue to serve in education, just as we do members of the military.

- Nurses, are also recognized this month and need a big thank you. For their care and understanding. Especially, with all the health challenges our members have been facing.

Finally, and most of all, I want to give a shout out to all of you as mothers. May gives a special day to thank our mothers and give them recognition for all they do for us and did for us daily.

*For every quiet kindness given with love,  
For every prayer whispered softly above,  
For every hand that steadied our way,  
We honor our mothers this Mother's Day.*

*In their gentle wisdom and strength so true,  
We find a light that carries us through.  
With grateful hearts, we pause and say,  
Thank you, dear mothers, this blessed May.*

There is so much more to be said, however, I wanted to focus on remembrance, read on to see all the changes and needs as we meet for dinner on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Put your thinking caps on and come full of ideas as we plan for the 2026-2027 year.

Blessings to each of you and to all our caregivers.

Marybeth



## ***May Invocation ... Alice Lubrecht***

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**



- May 12<sup>th</sup> – SI Harrisburg Board Meeting – 6 p.m.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Elections/Budget Calendar for 2026-2027
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – SI Harrisburg Board Meeting – Restaurant JoJo's on 22
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – SI Harrisburg Dinner Meeting – 6 p.m. at Faith Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

## Current Information and Updates

**MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:** Our dinner meeting on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> will be held at 6:00 PM in Shaffer Hall at Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Colonial Road.



We will have representatives from Central Pennsylvania Literacy Council joining us.

In May, we will start thinking about our future year of service with a discussion and approval of our draft budget and dues schedule for 2026-2027 and well as our planning calendar for the year.

Finally, we will vote on the incoming board representatives at the May meeting.

**MAY COLLECTION:** We will be having a monetary collection for The Downtown Daily Bread to assist in their services to the homeless population of the Harrisburg area.

### **BRIEF REPORT ON NAR SPRING CONFERENCE:**

1. There were 123 people in attendance representing 25 clubs.
2. Elections
  - a. Lisa Malago was installed as our Governor for 2026-2028
  - b. Donna Gigone was elected as the new Governor- Elect. Alice had served on the NAR board with her earlier. Her most recent position was District 1 director
  - c. Our new District 4 director is Marian Fritzsche from the SI Centre County Club. She most recently served as the NAR Secretary



- d. Our District 4 Secretary continues to be Rose Weir from the SI SUN Club
3. There was a slight change in dues which passed with the new budget. It is regarding how fees for Spring and Fall meetings are determined. Instead of a flat fee for each club, the fee will be based on the number of members in a club. As a small club, we will benefit from this change.
  4. The group brought 205 Purses of Hope to the conference with an additional collection of items to fill another 30 purses. These were delivered to the City Shelter of Washington on Sunday.
  5. Fall District meeting will be on October 24 at the Inn at Lewisburg. SI SUN will be the host club.
  6. 2027 Spring Conference will take place from April 30 to May 2 at the Heritage Hotel and Conference Center in Southbury CT.
  7. There is a new online communication tool which NAR will be using called Raklet. If you are interested in connecting with others in the region, Alice Lubrecht has the QR code.



***WEAVER SCHOLARSHIP:*** The Scholarship Committee reviewed twenty applications from girls graduating this spring from schools in Dauphin County. The Committee selected Ananya Kannan, a senior from Central Dauphin High School, who will be attending Penn State Main Campus and studying Forensic Science beginning in the fall. Ananya will attend our meeting in June to receive her certificate.

## ***BUDGET AND DUES FOR 2026-2027:***

A **revised budget** for you to review along with the proposed dues will be sent with the May meeting agenda. It has changes reflected based on SI/SIA rise of dues and our continuing decision to cover the dues for our Life member. Bring a copy to the meeting for discussion and vote.



## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

### ***FACTS ABOUT MEMORIAL DAY***

- **American flags** are flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day and then raised to full-staff for the rest of the day as a symbol of the nation's resilience and determination.



- **The National Moment of Remembrance** was established by Congress in 2000 as a way to encourage Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who died in service to the country.

- **The red poppy** has become a symbol of Memorial Day. This tradition dates back to World War I when a poem called "In Flanders Fields" described red poppies growing on the graves of fallen soldiers.



## ***FRIENDSHIP LINK***



Don't forget, you can connect with our English Friendship Link on Facebook:

<http://sigbi.org/cannock-and-district/>

Or via the web at: <http://sigbi.org/cannock-and-district/>

## GIANT GROCERY CARDS

Treat a senior citizen, a family member and or give a gift to a family or individual in need of assistance. Giant grocery cards can be purchased in the amount of \$25, \$50, and \$100 by contacting Jacalyn Speaks at [jcspeaks@aol.com](mailto:jcspeaks@aol.com). The club receives 5% of the value of cards sold.



### SOROPTIMIST 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**

**The Love of Country**

**I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals,  
For the larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for Country and  
God.**

Editor: *Cathy Mentzer*

Should anyone have questions of our Club, please feel free to contact Cathy Mentzer at 717-991-4025 or at [cmentzer@md.net](mailto:cmentzer@md.net). Please visit our website, [www.soroptimistharrisburg.org](http://www.soroptimistharrisburg.org) and our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SIHarrisburg>

## How to Get Involved

There are many ways to support Soroptimist International of Harrisburg. You can attend a meeting, volunteer at a club project, contribute to scholarship and award efforts, or help spread the word about programs that uplift women and girls. Every act of support helps expand access to opportunity and strengthens our shared mission of empowerment through education and service.

## Closing Note

Thank you for supporting Soroptimist International of Harrisburg and the women and girls we serve. Together, we are creating opportunities, encouraging leadership, and transforming lives—one program, one partnership, and one success story at a time.

