

## Candidates for SIA 2024-2025 President-elect



**Sue Riney**

SI/Oak Harbor, Washington  
(Northwestern Region)



**Maria Helena  
Riquinho dos Santos**

SI/Porto  
Alegre Metropolitan  
(Brazil Region)



**Vivian Walczesky**

SI/Monroe County,  
Michigan  
(Midwestern Region)



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## **Resume for SIA President-Elect 2024/2025**

**Name: Sue Riney**

**Member, SI of Oak Harbor in Northwestern Region**

**SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE** during the past ten years:

SIA Secretary Treasurer 2023/2024

SIA Board Member 2023/2025

SIA Dream Big Campaign Ambassador 2021/2023

SI Global Voice Committee 2020/2021 and 2022/2023

SI Public Relations Liaison 2020/2021 and 2022

SI of Oak Harbor Club President 2021/2022

SI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Global Event Co-Chair 2021

SIA 2020 Convention Co-Chair

SIA Representative to SI Advocacy Committee 2018/2019

Northwestern Region Membership Chair 2016/2018

SIA Secretary Treasurer 2015/2016

SIA Chair Laws and Resolution Committee 2014/2015

SIA Board Member 2014/2016

Delegate for Soroptimist to UN Commission on the Status of Women 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2024

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

Bachelor of Arts in Parks and Recreation Management, Western Washington University

### **BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Vice President and Project Manager, Wells Fargo Bank, 2004/2020

Vice President and Product Manager, Pacific Northwest Bank, 1996/2004

Savings Administration Manager, InterWest Bank, 1980/1996

Co-Owner Riney Production Services, 2003/2020

### **OFFICES/BOARD SERVICE/MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS** past 10 years

Board Member, Whidbey Presbyterian Church, 2020/2026

Worship Committee Chair, Whidbey Presbyterian Church, 2020/2026

Production Oversight Chair, Whidbey Playhouse, 2016/2023

Enterprise Community Outreach Chair, Wells Fargo Women's Team Member Network, 2014/2020

## **CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT**

### **What is there specifically in your background, training, education, experience and interests which qualify you to serve as SIA President?**

I have been a Soroptimist for 28 years, and during that time I've been honored to work at all levels of this organization – Club, Region, Federation, and International. Each step in my Soroptimist journey has been a source of personal growth, providing me with valuable insights into leadership and collaboration within teams to achieve shared objectives.

As my Soroptimist leadership skills evolved, I found that many of these competencies were transferable to my professional life. Throughout my banking career my responsibilities expanded significantly as I successfully led project teams in the development and implementation of numerous company-wide projects and initiatives.

In 2021 I collaborated with Past SI President Sharon Fisher to produce the SI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Global Event. This complex task involved virtually facilitating a diverse international team to create and implement a meaningful and inspiring celebration for all members. My leadership style fostered creative thinking, engaged participants, built consensus, and drove action, resulting in a tremendously successful and memorable event.

As the current SIA Secretary/Treasurer I am gaining in-depth knowledge regarding the organization's finances, as well as experience in the responsibilities inherent in serving as an executive member of the SIA Board.

My extensive involvement in various SIA and SI positions has given me familiarity with the administration of Soroptimist at all levels. I have cultivated working relationships with numerous past, current and incoming leaders in each of the Federations. Additionally, I have collaborated on projects with our United Nations Representatives, and presented at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women NGO Forum and the UN Civil Society Conference showcasing SIA's Dream Program impacts.

With a background in regularly presenting project updates to senior leaders and team members within Wells Fargo Bank, leading workshops, and presenting at numerous Soroptimist conferences and meetings, as well as being on stage in theatrical productions, I bring a wealth of experience in public speaking and performing in front of groups, both large and small. This experience allows me to effectively convey the impactful stories of the women and girls we serve and highlight the ways our clubs and members support our mission, contributing to increased global awareness of the Soroptimist brand.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to be considered for the next step of leadership within the Soroptimist organization. I am eager to leverage my talents to further the organization's path towards achieving our Big Goal, and to serve our members in delivering on our mission to collectively make a sustainable impact on the lives of women and girls!

**How will you leverage your skills and experiences to help lead SIA in achieving our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?**

I actively contributed to reaching our financial objectives by serving as an SIA Dream Big Campaign Ambassador, helping secure the necessary funds to support our overarching Big Goal. Drawing upon my career as a project manager and as a theater director/producer, my expertise lies in maintaining a sharp focus on priorities and performance within the specified time frame, ultimately driving the team towards the successful attainment of its goals. I am committed to remaining readily available to the membership, and will communicate through all channels available on how their involvement in our Dream Programs as well as Big Goal Accelerator Projects that provide access to education for women and girls collectively advances our organization towards its target.

**Why do you want to serve as the SIA President, and what special qualities would you bring to the office?**

I retired from my career four years ago, and have redirected my time and passion towards those activities I most care about and where I can make a meaningful impact. Soroptimist is at the forefront of these pursuits. Collaborating with a diverse and talented group, especially those on the SIA Board, has been a source of inspiration and continuous learning for me. I bring a spirit of positivity, enjoyment, and energy to working groups, and I'm eager to build on the contributions of our organization's past leaders to ensure we have the tools and resources needed to continue our positive difference in this world for generations to come. I believe my background, depth of knowledge and experience, leadership style, personality, and communication skills are aligned with the needs of SIA President Elect. Given the opportunity, I am ready and excited to contribute to the continued success and impact of Soroptimist.



## Resume for SIA President- elect 2024-2025

**Maria Helena Riquinho dos Santos**  
**SI of Porto Alegre Metropolitano -Brazil Region**

**SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE** (Include **significant** Club, Region, Federation, and international service **with dates**):

Federation level	Club level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 – 2018 - Coordinator of the Brazilian Region Pillar Programs</li> <li>• 2018 – 2020 Governor-elect</li> <li>• 2020 – 2022 Governor, Brazil Region</li> <li>• 2022 -2024 Board Director, Soroptimist International of the America.</li> <li>• 2023 - International Delegation to the UN at CSW67 in New York.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006-2008: Interclub Coordinator of Rio Grande do Sul</li> <li>• 2007 - National Delegation in Nairobi - Africa</li> <li>• 2012 – 2014 - Elected SI Club President</li> <li>• 2012 -2014 Elected Secretary of FRATER and Member of the Growth, Development and Expansion Committee</li> <li>• 2012 Club Secretary</li> <li>• 2014 - 2016 - Club President</li> <li>• Featured Soroptimist</li> <li>• 2016 Coordinator of the XX Soroptimist National Conference of the Brazil Region</li> <li>• 2016-2018: Pillar Programs Coordinator</li> </ul>

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

ACADEMIC TRAINING	ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Training in Clinical and Organizational Psychology</b>, ULBRA – Universidade Luterana do Brazil, Canoas/RS - Brazil</li> <li>• <b>Educational/School Psychology, UFRGS</b> – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul.</li> <li>• <b>Graduate Degree in Health</b> - Hospital Santo Antônio, Porto Alere/RS;</li> <li><b>Citizenship and Human Rights</b>, ADESG - Association of Graduates of the Escola Superior de Guerra Delegacia in Rio Grande do Sul;</li> <li><b>Specialist in Child and Adolescent Law</b>, ESMP – Escola Superior do Ministério Público</li> </ul>	<p><b>University Supervisor of Internships in Clinical and Organizational Psychology - UFRGS</b> (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul), <b>PUCRS</b> (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul) and <b>ULBRA</b> (Universidade Luterana do Brazil).</p>

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Psychologist, Social Educator, Coordinator and Strategic Consultant at the NGO Reviver – Non-profit entity that works with Professional Learning for vulnerable youth.
- Volunteer Secretary at ABC – Hospital Beneficente de Canoas/RS.
- Volunteer Deliberative Advisor at the Canoas Beneficent Hospital
- President COMDICA – Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents
- COMDIM Advisor – Canoas Municipal Council for Women’s Rights
- CMAS Advisor - Canoas Municipal Social Assistance Council
- FOGAP Collegiate Coordination – Gaúcho Professional Learning Forum

**OFFICES/BOARD SERVICE/MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Nairobi World Social Forum Workshop in Africa
- Participation in the World March of Women in Nairobi – Africa
- Oficina da Água - Water Ambassador for the Rio Grande do Sul Academy
- Coordinator, Young Water Ambassadors Project
- Art, Environment and Education Workshop – AME
- Coordinator of Community Work Collectives
- National Delegate, Zero Hunger
- National Delegate, Municipal Council for Children and Adolescents

## **CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT**

**Please answer the following questions in your statement.**

**What specifically is it about your background, training, education, experience, and interests that qualifies you to serve as SIA President?**

- Experience: My journey leading various community projects enables me to be elected and contribute to important moments in the planning of projects that lead to the creation of a better world, especially for women and the most vulnerable.
- Interests: building new knowledge, getting to know new cultures, and interacting with people from all nations. Living with diversity  
Contribute to making the dreams of women and girls who need it most come true, always respecting, and honoring the SIA policies.

**How will you leverage your skills and experiences to help lead SIA in achieving our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?**

- Encouraging more and more women and girls to invest and believe in their potential to become protagonists of their own dreams, by encouraging Education, and considering my own life story: a young woman with few resources who managed to get where I am by valuing family, true friends, and seeking professional qualifications through education, always with humility.
- Seeking partnerships with entrepreneurs and professionals from the most diverse areas
- Expanding and believing in growth through interpersonal relationships
- Approaching the work entrusted to me with commitment and enthusiasm
- Flexibility in handling divergent opinions
- Facing challenges
- Always developing communication/writing/listening skills
- Ability to work in a team
- Education and leadership training
- Humility to accept criticism and/or feedback

**Why do you want to serve as SIA President and what special qualities would you bring to the role?**

- First and foremost, because I am passionate about the Soroptimist mission. I truly value and believe in the quest of improving lives through education. As President, I can contribute even more to this mission while leaving my mark.
- I feel fully in tune with Soroptimist's goals.
- I believe in investing in social networks, from community leaders to the highest levels, to show the value of our organization and what we are doing transform the dreams of more than half a million women and girls by 2031.
- I would bring my enthusiasm and joy in serving to the role of President.
- I know I can collaborate with the entire executive team to put Soroptimist's goals into action.
- In addition, it would be a great honor to lead our organization. I feel in tune with all of Soroptimist's proposed goals. I also believe in investing to improve the circumstances of women in need through educational training and socio-emotional support, which would in turn improve their self-esteem and lead them to financial independence.
- Finally, I believe I meet the requirements, qualifications, skills, and experiences necessary to lead as President and represent Soroptimist around the world.



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## **Resume for SIA President-elect 2024-2025**

**Vivian Walczesky**

**Member, SI of Monroe County Michigan in Midwestern Region**

**SOROPTIMIST EXPERIENCE** (Include **significant** Club, Region, Federation and International service **with dates**):

2024 April/May Official Visitor Oakland, California  
2024 April Official Visitor Seattle/Tacoma Washington  
2024 April Official Visitor Sierra Pacific Region California  
2024 January Zoom Public Speaking SIA  
2024 to 2014. Soroptimist International, Delegate status at United Nations for CSW.  
2023 November Leadership Camp, Kenya, Africa (in person)  
2023 February Zoom Big Goal Accelerator Project  
2023 March Zoom Violence Against Women CSW  
2023 June Leadership & Fellows Program  
2023 June Official Visitor Sierra Pacific Region California  
2023 May Official Visitor Central East Coast Region North Carolina  
2022-2024 Elected to SIA Board of Directors, and appointed Laws and Resolutions Chair  
2016-2018 Governor, Midwestern Region  
2010-2014 – Two (2) terms as District III Director, Midwestern Region  
2008-2010 District III Secretary, Midwestern Region  
2005-2006 President, SI Monroe County Michigan

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI - BA Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

**University of Detroit Mercy**, Detroit MI – Legal Assistant Certification, ABA Approved.

**CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocate) 1998 to present. (40 plus training hours)

**Mediation Training** 2000 to 2020. (40 plus training hours)

Continued Education through Zoom and In Person, by SIA, CSW, CASA, and various other federations throughout my 20 years as a Soroptimist.

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Law offices in Michigan and Ohio**, 1967 to 2020. (Individual office information available upon request)

**Soroptimist International of the Americas** 2022-2024 Board Member and Laws and Resolutions Chair

**SI of Monroe County, Michigan** – 2003 to present, various offices held including President, Vice President, Awards Chair, Friendship Link, Program, Fundraising, Newsletter, Social Media.

**AAUW (American Association of University Women)** 2017 to present, and Public Policy Chair

**GROW Monroe (Giving Represents Our Women)** 2009 to present, and Board Member

**DVERT (Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team)** 2010, first graduating member and first of its kind program in the City of Monroe, Michigan.

**UNITED WAY** 2011 Allocation Fund Panel



## **OFFICES/BOARD SERVICE/MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

**GROW MONROE** (Giving Represents Our Women, 2009 to present, and Board Member

**CASA OF MONROE COUNTY**, Board member 2004 to 2014

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**, Alumni Board Member 2009 to 2015

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP**, Salary Compensation Committee, Chair 2017 to 2022

## **CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT**

Please answer the following questions in your statement.

### **What is there specifically in your background, training, education, experience and interests which qualify you to serve as SIA President?**

My neighborhood was a microcosm of the United Nations when I was a young girl. As a student teacher in my senior year of high school, two partners hired me to work in their law office which lasted three (3) years. Upon the death of one of those partners, I was hired by an attorney who needed someone with legal experience. That job lasted two (2) years and I then moved to Michigan where I worked for a law firm consisting of six (6) full time attorneys. I remained at that job for 18 years and left to continue my education and get a BA in Middle Eastern and North African Studies. In 1995, I began working for a sole practitioner specializing in domestic cases and remained at this law firm for the next 25 years, retiring in 2020. Along the way, I became a Mediator with 20 years of experience and a CASA Advocate being appointed by the Courts to represent abused and neglected children since 1998 and still represent children to date. Being a Mediator and a CASA Advocate required 40+ hours of training in each discipline. I continued with education by webinars sponsored by SIA, CSW, Michigan State Court Administrator's Office, and others. I have also attended the Leadership forums sponsored by SIA and will receive my diploma at the convention in Bellevue, Washington, in July 2024. I also conducted a Leadership Clinic while in Kenya, Africa, in November 2023, speaking on Law to the 200 girls who attended the camp, and have spoken to regions at their official conferences on topics that concern all SIA members.

### **How will you leverage your skills and experiences to help lead SIA in achieving our 2021-2031 Big Goal of Investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education?**

With the help of the Soroptimist organization and its members, I will use my skills and experiences to help lead SIA in achieving our 2021-2031 Big Goal dreams. No one person can do this alone. As President-elect, I will work with all members from East to West Coast, North-Central-South America, and to the Pacific Rim to ensure that women and girls get the education needed through our Dream Programs. Clubs provide funding through the Live Your Dream and Dream It Be It programs to help women and girls get an education and I will continue asking for help from all Soroptimist members. Our programs must continue to thrive and it is that message, that I wish to convey to all members. We must follow through with capacity building toward the creation of a sustainable and effective organization. As a proud member of the Laurel Society Inner Circle, and an Ambassador to the Dream Big Campaign, it is critical for our organization to thrive into the next 100 years so that we leave our SIA organization to future generations of Soroptimists.

### **Why do you want to serve as the SIA President, and what special qualities would you bring to the office?**

As a Soroptimist member for the past 20 years, as an SIA Board Member and Laws & Resolutions Chair, as Governor, District Director, and other positions, and my experiences as a UN Delegate, Official Visitor to clubs, Mediator and CASA Advocate, along with my continued education and Leadership skills, all these positions and experiences have brought me to this point in my life to serve as SIA President-elect.

