

# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*



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[www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org)

## Springtime Brings Many Transitions Including for SITM



Spring in Nevada is like a boisterous, unruly child – full of energy, charming at times and maddening at others. I look out the window and it's snowing. I look out again and there are daffodils blooming but the wind is blowing them horizontal. Then I step outside and feel the wonderful warm sun on my face. It's a time of transition for sure.

I feel the transition within our club as well. We launched our new website, luckily with almost no technical glitches and the feedback from members has

been very positive. The Finance & Bylaws Committee had what was probably the best-attended and most lively budget meeting ever. We have an outstanding new board and President-Elect Vivian is starting to round up committee coordinators for next year. If there's an area that you're especially interested in please contact Vivian to see if a coordinator or co-coordinator is needed for next year.

The rest of April is going to be busy and fun. On April 16, and again on May 7, members will have the opportunity to help shape the future of the club through the Advance Strategic Planning process. One of our most popular meetings will take place on April 23, our

Women's Scholarship program. This is the epitome of women helping other women toward self-sufficiency and career growth and is a program not to be missed.

That same weekend, April 24 – 26, is the SNR Conference which is conveniently (for us) being held at the Atlantis. One very special part of this year's conference will be the Celebration of Life at 8:15 on Sunday morning, where we will recognize Sue Camp and Carrie Porter.

Thanks to all of you for the time, effort and creativity you give to Soroptimist and to those who benefit from all that we do.

President Pam Sutton

## New Officers Elected for 2015-16 Club Year

At the March Business Meeting, the Nominating Committee, coordinated by Penney Leezy, along with Margie Hermanson and Pam Robinson, presented the proposed slate of officers. At the April Business Meeting the following slate was successfully voted to serve terms of office for the next Club Year.

Thank you Nominating Committee for your work. Congratulations to the following members who have agreed to serve SITM in the following positions.

Director, 2 years: Pam Sutton  
Director, 1 year: Margie Hermanson  
Parliamentarian: Becky Moody - appointed

President-Elect: Jennifer Burnitt  
VP/Technical: Rikki Hensley-Ricker  
VP/Service: Teresa Mentzer  
Recording Secretary: Harmony Hobbs  
Corresponding Secretary: Anna McArdle  
Treasurer/Service Fund, 2 years: Kay Dunham  
Delegate: Barbara Atwell  
Alternate Delegate: Lynne Catrow

Officers completing unexpired terms:

President: Vivian Ruiz  
Treasurer General Fund, 1 year  
Vicki Schultz



*These new officers will join President-Elect Vivian Ruiz during her 2015-16 term as President.*

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## April Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

The April Business Meeting was light on attendance, due to Spring Break, but a quorum of members attended an action-packed meeting that saw the election of new officers, the review of next year's budgets and miscellaneous business for upcoming meetings and events.

### Congratulations New SITM Officers

SITM members voted at the April Business Meeting for new officers to join President-Elect Vivian Ruiz, when she takes the reins as President July 1. Thank you to Nominating Committee Coordinator Penney Leezy, Margie Hermanson, and Pam Robinson for your work to assemble an exciting slate of candidates. See page 1 for the complete slate of new officers.

### First Review of the Draft Budgets

The Finance/Bylaws Committee, along with SITM's two Treasurers presented the proposed 2015-16 General Fund and Service Fund Budgets. If you have comments, suggestions or questions, contact Coordinator Barbara Atwell or the Treasurers, before the May Business Meeting, where a vote to accept the budgets will take place. For an explanation of changes to the General Fund Budget, as a result of the SIA Federation dues increase, see page 5.

Speaking of budgets, next year's budget for the club's participation in fundraising at the Reno Air Races was approved at the April Business Meeting. After expenses, SITM is projected to make about \$12,000 on this fundraiser in September.

### Conference Notes and Activities

President Pam Sutton, and Delegates Bev Perkins and Enid Oliver are representing SITM at the Sierra

### Calendar

- April 16 - Advance Strategic Planning
- April 23 - Education Women Scholarship Awards
- April 23 - SNR Board Meeting, Atlantis
- April 24 - 26 Sierra Nevada Region Conference, Atlantis
- April 30 - Healthy Hearts for Women
- May 7 - Committee Sign-Ups for new year
- May 12 - Board Meeting, Disability Resources, 5:30 p.m.
- May 14 - Business Meeting, Atlantis
- May 21 - Thanks to Youth Event

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Nevada Region annual conference to be held April 24-26 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno. Volunteers are needed for SITM's fundraising raffle at conference of a beautiful quilt donated to the club by member Jan Bogikes. The club will have a sales table, so stop by and sell a few tickets in between sessions.

SITM members will also be helping out SNR Governor-Elect Vicki Watson at conference by staffing the Hospitality Table and helping with conference raffles. If you're planning to attend, consider donating a part of your time to help the region make the conference a success. And even if you are not attending, but can volunteer a few hours, your assistance is appreciated.

### Happy Dollars for March

Some \$294 was collected during March for the Northern Nevada International Visitors Center, offering citizen diplomacy to visitors from around the world. April Happy Dollars are designated for the ALS Association, Nevada Chapter, providing services for individuals suffering from ALS (sometimes called Lou Gehrig's disease) and their caregivers.

### Membership Update

The Board approved a leave of absence for Doreen Rogers beginning April 1 through May 22 for travel reasons. Remaining on leave of absence is Ploypun Pihakane through June for work and personal reasons.



*Doris Phelps, far left and Millie Mitchell, far right delivered 44 bracelets handmade by members as part of the Beads for Strength project. With them are nurses from Renown's Oncology Unit, Josh Pierce, Sari Jokela-Willis and Amanda Thomas. The bracelets are given to patients after completing chemotherapy treatments. The nurses said the patients appreciate the "real jewelry" quality of the bracelets made with loving care by some of our talented jewelry-making members.*

## Patty Downs -- A Lifetime Connection to Soroptimist

By Pam Robinson

Soroptimism has been a part of Patty's life since she was a teen. She received a Youth Citizenship Award from SI Carson City when she was in high school and received a scholarship from the same club as a UNR undergraduate. Early in her career she was a member of the Venture Club, sponsored by SITM. Venture was for young women who did not meet the professional classifications required by Soroptimist at the time. And, she's been a member of SITM for 25 years!

Patty was born in Reno and moved to Carson City when she was 11. Her tight-knit family created a wonderful childhood for her and her sister, Tammy. They taught her to become involved in community



*The Buzick family at Burning Man this year – sister Tammy on the left, Mom and Dad and Patty.*

service at a young age and instilled a love of history, reading and travel. She returned to Reno to attend UNR and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration as well as an MBA.

Her career in human resources had an interesting start. When she was in high school, she worked as a clerical aide in the Nevada Department of Vocational Education. She worked there part time while in school and full time during the summer. She met the personnel director and told her that she would like to do her job as her career. The director's response was that no one wanted to do her job. Patty thought differently and pursued human resources management from that point forward and never regretted her decision.

She was recently promoted to Market Director of Human Resources for Northern Nevada Medical Center and Prominence Health Plan where she has worked for 25 years. She and the five staff members who report to her supervise 825 employees. She is passionate about her work and says that every day is different. She is always learning and loves that she can make a

difference in peoples' lives.

Family is very important to Patty. Although she and her sister Tammy were not close growing up, as often happens, they are now very close. Tammy is a retired Washoe County School District math teacher and now teaches part time at Our Lady of Snows as well as serving as a curator at Bowers Mansion. Patty calls herself a "devoted dog mom" but sadly lost her sweet dog CJ just a couple of weeks ago. We heard about his many antics during happy dollars, and know that she misses him.

Patty's fondest memories of Soroptimist are of attending SIA conferences. She traveled to Manhattan and San Diego and enjoyed the amazing camaraderie and speakers. Life member Meg Price was her sponsor when she joined SITM. Our scholarship program is Patty's primary focus because of the support and encouragement she received from SI Carson City when she was in school. Patty is also on the board of the Nevada Women's Fund and Truckee Meadows Tomorrow and loves giving back to her community.

When she's not working, Patty is traveling. She's been all over the world many times over. So far the favorite places she's visited are the Galapagos Islands, Africa, and Egypt, but there are many more. She is going to Spain in November with Jeanne Baxter. She has traveled with Soroptimist friends on many of her journeys and treasures the friendships while learning the history and culture of the places she visits. She also loves hiking and snowshoeing and is an exercise fanatic and a fabulous cook.

Patty is a past president of SITM, was a Ceec Abrahams awardee, and is a member of the Laurel Society. She has coordinated many of the committees and served as an officer for our club several times. Her enthusiasm and passion for Soroptimist is infectious! She personifies what it means to be a Soroptimist.



*Patty, left with former SITM member Carol Galantuomini having fun in the Galapagos.*

**Save the Date!**  
**Start Gathering your Treasures!**  
**It is Garage Sale Season!**



The IGU Committee is sponsoring our  
**30th Semiannual Garage Sale**  
 on May 15th and 16th

If you already have treasures set aside, there are several options for storing them until the sale.

- You can drop them off at the Ethan Allen warehouse between 9 am & 3 pm Tuesday thru Saturday.
- You can call the store at 826-1722 to make arrangements for drop off.
- You can check with the receptionist in the main store anytime Monday through Sunday during store hours which are 10 am to 5:30 pm.

Keep in mind that Ethan Allen will take donations throughout the year! We will also be setting up the boutique section for higher-end clothing and items. Please mark these items if you are dropping them off at Ethan Allen.

And we need members and their friends and family to volunteer at the sale, so block your calendar for Friday afternoon on May 15 for set up, early bird treasure finds and snacks. We also need sales associates on Saturday during the sale. Snacks, of course, will be provided. A sign-up clipboard will be passed around at the Thursday luncheons.

## A Carload of Crocheted Afghans



*133 afghans barely fit into this SUV for delivery to the Family Shelter.*

Each fall numerous members who are novice and expert at crocheting undertake a goal to make an afghan for each of the families living in the Volunteers of America Family Shelter on Record Street in Reno. (A couple of evening lessons are provided too, for those interested.)

This year, members crocheted a total of 133 afghans for shelter families. Delivery was made by Diana Dillon and Niki Ewing, along with Jeff De Matei, Diana's boyfriend, who assisted in deliveries to the shelter. Jeff is a great Soroptimister.

Sandy Isham, the VOA Shelter Director, was once again very appreciative for all of the members and their hard work. Delivery day is a particular highlight as families arrive to pick out their afghan.

Thanks to all who donated yarn for this project and for everyone for your crocheting talents. The afghans were a big hit again this year.



*Diana Dillon and Niki Ewing prepare to hand out the PILE of afghans delivered to families at the Volunteers of America Shelter on Record Street in Reno.*

## 2015-2016 Draft General Fund Budget Explanation

At the April Business Meeting the Finance/Bylaws Committee and the General and Service Fund Treasurers presented their work on the drafts of the 2015-16 Treasurers' Budgets.

Due to an approved increase in dues from our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, changes have been made in our dues structure for regular, new and life members. General Fund Treasurer Vicki Schultz offered this explanation. For a copy, see President Pam's April 9 Board Meeting email.

By Vicki Schultz, General Fund Treasurer

To be able to see the budget changes, the whole year of 2013-2014, both actual and budgeted is included, since the 2014-2015 fiscal year shows only eight months through February.

The Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 has many changes but the big change involves the dues. As you know, Federation is increasing our dues \$16 for this fiscal year and \$2 more for the next two fiscal years for a total of \$20.

The Finance Committee (with the Board's approval) is recommending we raise our dues from \$171 to \$190 with no further increases for the next two years.

Another change is that we normally charge new members \$45 more than the renewal dues to pay for one time new member expenses: \$10 charged by Federation, \$25 for pin and name badge, and \$10 for Roster. Because we are trying to build our membership, we are recommending keeping the new member

dues the same as renewing members at \$190, therefore not charging for the new member extras. Right now we have enough pins for a year. We will encourage members to begin just getting the roster online. The printing is done by Digiprint at no cost.

To further support keeping new member dues at \$190, we are recommending increasing Life Member dues by \$12 from \$108 to \$120. Federation has not increased dues for life members. There's been some debate on this subject and further feedback is welcomed before the final vote on the budget in May.

One other item to point out on the budget is the line added for Fundraising. We are planning to raffle a beautiful quilt at Conference and the proceeds will go to the General Fund. We have budgeted \$450 because the Membership Committee has requested that amount to fund some one-time expenses. Please review the Proposed Budget and come with questions or email questions to me at [vschultz@sfginc.com](mailto:vschultz@sfginc.com).

## Help Needed with Basket Raffles for Thanks to Youth

An outstanding group of youth will receive scholarships and Unsung Heroes awards at the May 21 Thanks to Youth luncheon. Thank you to Mr. John Farahi and the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa for their generous contribution of underwriting the lunch for this fundraiser.

The Education -Youth Committee will be assembling baskets for raffle at the event. They are looking for personal, corporate or community donations to fill some themed baskets to raise funds for next year's scholarships. Here are the categories and appropriate items are needed for each.

1. Garden
2. Cash donations
3. Spa type
4. Accessories (scarves, etc.)
5. Jewelry
6. Men's
7. Sports
8. Movie

If you have questions, or you have items to donate, contact Margie Hermanson or Michele Jones.

### Past Scholarship Recipients Speak

Two past recipients of Youth Scholarships from 2009 spoke to members at the April 2 meeting. Each expressed how helpful SITM's scholarships were in pursuing their education. Stacey Hernandez is working for Elder Services of Nevada as a master clinical social worker and intends to pursue a graduate-level degree. Jennifer Turner has applied to the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada.

Jennifer Turner



Stacey Hernandez



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS**  
**SIERRA NEVADA REGION**  
**39th Annual Conference**  
**April 24-26, 2015**  
**Atlantis Casino Resort Spa**



- **Plan to attend – register and pay only for the meals you plan to eat**
  - **Come by and help SITM members sell raffle tickets or staff the conference hospitality table, even if you only have a few hours**
  - **If you are not registered, it's not too late (but there is a late fee)**

**Check the SNR E-Blast for registration information or contact President Pam Sutton for help.**

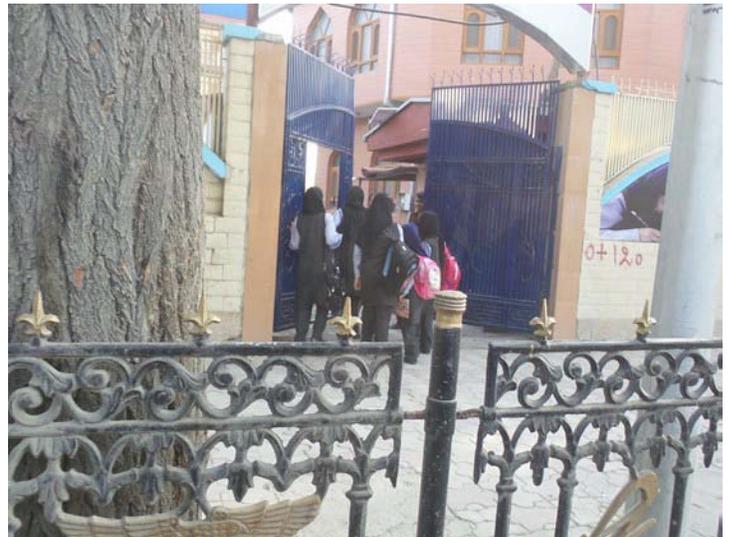
## Your opportunity to support Asma Aimal's Education

The YouCaring.com (crowd funding website) is up and operational and accepting donations in support of Asma Aimal's education at the University of Nevada. Donations are being overseen by Kay Dunham and SITM's Service Fund.

<http://www.youcaring.com/tuition-fundraiser/help-asma-aimal-an-afghan-young-woman-fund-her-education/310261>

Here's an explanation you will find on the website.

Miss Aimal received one of 7 student visas issued by the US for Afghanistan in 2014. Only two were issued to young women. Miss Aimal has begun her studies at the University of Nevada, Reno where she intends to pursue a degree in nursing. Miss Aimal was fortunate to receive a high school education in Afghanistan and dreamed of studying in the US. That dream has come true but international student fees are very expensive so she will need the support of those who believe in the value of education for women and girls. As a young woman from a war-torn country once controlled by the Taliban, she has seen first hand the necessity of education to begin the process of lifting her country out of poverty and war. By providing her with the opportunity to obtain her university education you can truly change her life and the lives of all those she will help in the future.



*Girls attending school in Afghanistan.*

### April Birthdays

*President-Elect Vivian Ruiz helped Scarlet Ewy celebrate her April birthday by giving her a hundred grand – candy bar that is. Missing from the April birthday celebration, but still celebrating in April were: Jennifer Crowe-Clark, Elsie Doser, Niki Ewing and Dorothy Nash Holmes.*





*Magician Teemu Kaunismaki (aka Trickster Teemu) performs a card trick. Teemu is 17 and attends Bishop Manogue High school. He is a member of the Society of America Magicians and a member of the High Sierra Magic Circle.*

## Magicians Show Off Their Magic at SITM Meeting

SITM members were entertained by two magicians at the March 26 meeting. Both young men perform what is known as "up close" magic, such as card and sting tricks and the age-old "disappearing ball trick". Members got to participate in some of the "sight of hand" as part of the fun.

*Magician Arthur Miner (aka Ace) performs a magic trick with string. You can usually find Ace performing magic on the University of Nevada campus in between classes or performing every other Saturday at The Waterfall Bar in downtown Reno.*



## Former Member, Long-Time Educator Passes

Dr. Rita Huneycutt passed unexpectedly March 14, 2014 following a bout with pneumonia and sepsis. Rita was a former member of SITM, active in the 1980s, and seasoned members will remember Rita serving as club delegate to the SIA Federation Convention.

Rita was a long-time faculty member and administrator for Truckee Meadows Community College serving as Assistant to the President. Twice during her distinguished career she served as interim President. Rita was a cheerleader for other women and their successes when local women were just breaking into leadership roles.

Rita furthered her belief in the importance of education through her volunteer involvement in many organizations including Nevada Women's Fund, Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows, Education Collaborative of Washoe County, Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce, American Heart Association, as well as many others. She was recognized as TMCC's first Woman of Achievement with the NWF and later went on to become a board member. She was always a strong advocate for education and enjoyed participating in organizations that provided mentoring and scholarships to young women in particular. She and her late husband, Dr. Harry Huneycutt were great supporters of the TMCC Foundation and UNR Athletics.

A memorial service was held March 28 in Reno. A scholarship is being formed through Nevada Women's Fund in Rita's name, with the recipient to be a TMCC student.



## Libby Booth Book Drive Receives BIG Thanks

Earlier in the year, the Education-Youth Committee solicited donations from members towards specific book titles, requested by the school librarian from the club's adopted school, Libby C. Booth Elementary. Approximately \$700 in donations and books were collected from members which placed 42 new books in the library. An additional 10 books were donated by the local Sundance Bookstore; and an additional 15 books were donated by Committee Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer.

Thank you to everyone who donated money or books to help bring some fresh new titles to the school library. The club received the following "thank you note" from the students.

*We love the new library books that you so generously donated to Libby Booth School. We can't wait to read, "The Dork Diaries" and all about "Bats". You are so thoughtful and kind. A BIG thank you to each and every one of you!*

*Libby C. Booth Students*

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Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows  
P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515  
[www.sitmnev.org](http://www.sitmnev.org)

**President Pam Sutton**

[pam@crystalwindglass.com](mailto:pam@crystalwindglass.com)

**Editor Faye I. Andersen**

[fia@pyramid.net](mailto:fia@pyramid.net) or

[fandersen@nvenergy.com](mailto:fandersen@nvenergy.com)

775-358-5149 or 834-4822

**Newsletter Committee**

Pam Robinson

Doris Phelps

Paula Ringkob

**Also contributing to this issue**

Jo Ann Roberts

Pam Sutton

Niki Ewing

Millie Mitchell

Vicki Schultz

SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Resort & Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations [www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto:www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com). no later than 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$17.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:

Sierra Nevada Region: [www.soroptimistsnr.org](http://www.soroptimistsnr.org)

Soroptimist International of the Americas: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist International: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



## Did you know . . .

### Special Healthy Hearts for Women Presentation April 30

More women than men die from heart disease each year, yet women often are unaware that their symptoms may be different from those typically portrayed for men. Find out more about women's heart attack symptoms and maintaining a healthy heart from this presentation by three family medicine physicians from the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Family Medicine Centers.



Marcia Lu, MD,  
Assistant Professor



Catherine McCarthy, MD,  
Associate Professor



Stephanie Wright, MD,  
Assistant Professor