



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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February 2017

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Feb. 16 – Sarah Johns, KOLO-TV
- Feb. 23 – Membership Committee
- Mar. 2 – Ruby Awards presentation
- Mar. 7 – Board Meeting, 5:30p.m., Staybridge Suites
- Mar. 9 – Business Meeting
- Mar. 16 – IGU Pledge Drive, Dr. Purna Subedi
- Mar 23 – Finance/Governance Committee

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
 Second Floor Convention Center
 \$20 for lunch
 RSVP to sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com
 no later than noon
 on the Tuesday before the
 Thursday meeting.

Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



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“Removing Barriers to Education in Nepal” 2017-2018 Annual Pledge Drive

By Monia House, IGU Co-Coordinator

On Thursday March 16 the International Goodwill and Understanding Committee (IGU) is excited to have special guest speaker Dr. Purna Subedi here to help kick off our annual pledge drive. Dr. Subedi, a native of Thulipokari will talk



Dr. Purna Subedi

Assistance program and a variety of vegetables due to our Vital Seed Program.

- The Library Support Program - - Books and a place to study are a must!
- Hybrid (Jersey) cow farming for milk production - - This successful program was started 3 years ago. Did you know a hybrid cow gives more milk than a water buffalo?

This is a program you don’t want to miss and a great program to bring guests!

about our Nepal Project including:

- An update on our “Purna-Gyan girls hostel (dormitory)”- How many girls we’ve provided scholarships to since the project started in 2000 and things the girls currently need such as drinking water and a bathroom for the hostel
- What a difference our Micro lending program has made! You’ll be amazed to hear how this program has expanded over the years. It’s hard to believe that our girls who could only have chicken once a week in 2000 now have chicken and meat daily because of our Animal



Margie Hermanson, a member of the Membership Committee conducts an induction ceremony for Alex Lutz at the February Business Meeting. Next to Alex is her sponsor, Kay Dunham.

Don’t Miss this Instruction on Public Awareness February 16

KOLO 8 Anchor Sarah Johns and Digital Sales Director Ashley Fritsche will be speaking at the upcoming Public Awareness Committee sponsored meeting on Thursday, February 16. Sarah and Ashley will be talking about why public awareness and promotion is important for a nonprofit organization. They will also be talking about KOLO Cares, connecting the community with events, the events with the people of Northern Nevada, and the people back to the community.

Sip & Social Hosted by Hospitality Committee

Do you never get a chance to just sit and chat with fellow members? Well, the Hospitality Committee has been attempting to provide members with that opportunity. On January 26 they hosted the "Sip & Social" get together after work at Napa Sonoma South.

It was a chance for interested members to get together for a beverage of their choice, hors' doeuvres and/or just good old conversation. This was the second social hosted by the Hospitality Committee. Watch for upcoming events.



Enjoying good conversation at the Sip & Social were, from left, Annette Friedlander, Eileen Fuller and Jo Ann Roberts.

Relaxing with a beverage were Patti Doty and Margie Hermanson.



Joining the social were, from left, Marlys Pryor, Linda and Craig Lamke.



Vivian Ruiz and Shirley George interrupted their conversation for this photo.

From the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project, Meredith Tanzer, left, NYEP Youth Services Manager/ Transition Specialist and Monica DuPea, NYEP Executive Director, display some of the hygiene items donated by SITM members for the girls supported by NYEP.

In lieu of exchanging holiday gifts, members were asked to bring hygiene items to the December 15 Holiday Social meeting.



Dear Soroptimists:

Thank you very much for your gift of \$427.75 for the Volunteers of America shelter program. Your support is gratefully appreciated and helps us provide shelter, counseling, case management, permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, and other supportive services for people like Katie, a U.S. Army veteran and mom whose life has been transformed by the VOA family Shelter. Because of the supportive services she and her son received, Katie landed a job, found housing, and has been empowered to strive toward her full potential and achieve a brighter future for her family.

Thanks for all you do!

Sandy Isham
Sr. Development & Community Relations Officer

Member Profile – Lynn Robins

From Canadian to American

By Lynn Robins, as told to Jo Ann Roberts

I was born, raised, and schooled in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I loved going to school and recall my favorite subject being history. Like most of my friends, I did not go to college. We married young and started our families. I have three children, two daughters and a son. They were raised and early on went to school in Quebec and Ontario. We all moved to California in 1979, finished schooling and became Americans!

My first career was in Dentistry and I was a Registered Dental Assistant (RD) and a Hygienist for 25-27 years. I came into the insurance industry because of Norm, my husband. Norm needed an assistant in his insurance agency, and I needed the fresh air of a career change.

Norm and I started a Human Resource outsourcing business in the early 1990's. Employers seemed to hate human resources work so it seemed a fertile area. We knew what it was like to be an employer, and we understood employee benefits and workers' compensation insurance. We ran the human resources business for over ten years before selling it and moving to Nevada. Norm noticed that housing prices in California were getting bloated and that human resources demanded a lot of work. Then Norm whispered the words, "If we sell the Human Resource business and sell the big house we could retire." I loved that so I encouraged his compelling line of reasoning.

And we did! We sold the human resources business, and we sold the big house, at the top of the market. We talked about where we wanted to retire; Florida, Texas, Nevada anywhere where there were no state taxes. Florida and Texas were too far away from kids and our employee benefits insurance business, all in California. We decided on Reno and fell in love with Reno and living downtown.

I was introduced to Soroptimist by our California bookkeeper, Lynnda Goll. She would come in on Thursdays but always said she had to leave by 11:30 on the dot, which she did. One day I asked why? Lynnda told me about Soroptimist and what it stood for and I liked it immediately. She invited me to join the Pleasant

Hill, California, Club in Founder Region, and I did. I loved the work we did for women and girls. I moved up "through the chairs" in the Club to become President and then onto District.

When we moved to Reno, we didn't know anyone. Norm joined a lot of different organizations he was familiar with including Rotary. He is a Past President of the Concord Club. I joined Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows and we both found instant friends.



Norm and Lynn Robins in China in 2007.

My favorite Soroptimist project has been the Founder Region Fellowship Award. This award was given to a woman in her last year of her doctoral studies. We would receive so many applications of what they were studying and how it was going to benefit women, families and the world.

I love being on the SITM Attendance Committee and greeting our members as they come in. This year I am on the Thanks to Youth Committee and the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee both are great committees.

I am also involved in my religion and active in Temple Sinai. I was never one to take up hobbies; I was always too busy with work and family.

Harmony, Scott and Ricky Hobbs, a Family

By Margie Hermanson

On February 3, 2017 I had the honor of attending the adoption proceedings for Harmony and Scott Hobbs for their son Ricky. I arrived about 30 minutes early not really knowing what to expect, where to park, or how long it would take. As I sat there I watched a couple of families come out of court rooms with their new children. Happiness filled the room. I found myself being a true Soroptimist as my eyes started to "leak". I was so lucky and able to get pregnant and have healthy children every time I wanted. Nine months might have seemed long back then but I knew these people had waited a much longer time.



Harmony, Ricky and Scott Hobbs

I sat and waited and finally some people arrived that I did not know but knew they were for the Hobbs. More and more arrived and then Harmony, Scott and Ricky arrived. I worked really hard to keep my eyes from "leaking" again! I was able to give both Harmony and Scott a big hug. I was then introduced to a few of their friends and family as her Soroptimist Mom. I can't begin to say how honored I felt with such simple words.

Finally the time came to go into the court room. I strained once again to stop the "leaking". I think everyone there was in the same boat. We sat as questions were asked of Scott, Harmony and Ricky. All

had to state their names and Ricky used his given last name. After a few more questions Ricky was asked what he wanted his name to be and the answer was Richard Alan HOBBS!!! The entire room was quickly passing the tissues around for all the "leaking" we were doing. What a moment. The audience was then invited to speak for the record and each person there gave their congratulations and love. After each person spoke Ricky looked at them and said "THANK YOU". Again the tears fell from this guest. What an amazing little boy.

This was by far one of the most moving experiences of my life. Sitting and watching this young family walk into the room with THEIR son was beyond anything I have experienced. When Ricky looked at Scott and called him Dad.....it just left me speechless! Ricky has quite a sense of humor also. He called Harmony's sister "Mom" and then laughed. They look VERY much alike! Ricky is a very lucky little boy to get such great parents. Those of us that have children know that not every day is how we envision it will be. There are days we want to crawl under the covers and ignore the outside world. But there are far more days when we look at our children and wonder how we got so lucky. This couple, this little boy and this FAMILY I know will live the fairy tale life....

AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!!!

Congratulations, Scott, Harmony and Ricky Hobbs! And thank you so much for including me in such a beautiful day.

Dear Generous Soroptimists,

Thank you for your very generous donation to the Eddy House YOUTH Resource Center in downtown Reno. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

As you may have heard we have been busy implementing new programming designed to promote self-efficacy within our homeless youth. Our programs such as: Job/Life Skilled Training; Client Internships; and Weekly Family Meetings have been met with enthusiasm and maximum participation from our youth.

Again, thank you for your donation and we hope you will continue to support the YOUTH Resource Center.

Warmest Regards,
Michele Gehr, Executive Director
The Eddy House, YOUTH Resource Center

2017 Live Your Dream Awardee Honored January 26

By Pam Robinson, Live Your Dream Co-Coordinator

Our Live Your Dream (LYD) award was given to a very deserving young woman at our January 26 luncheon. Live Your Dream awards are for women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families and seek financial assistance to continue their education or receive training. This award was formerly called the Women's Opportunity Award (WOA) and prior to that Training Awards Program (TAP). Since 1998, our club has given awards to 28 women totaling nearly \$32,000.

school but during her second semester she was sexually assaulted. After the assault, she became severely depressed and dropped out. In 2012 she found she was pregnant, just after she and the baby's father had broken up. Lisa went to trade school and earned a certification as a pharmaceutical tech, but it wasn't her dream job, and she decided to go back to school.

Lisa feels she has an obligation to teach her 3-year-old son, Jack, that



Live Your Dream Recipient Lisa Perryman, center, with Education – Women Co-Coordinators Pam Robinson, left and Penney Leezy.

Lisa Perryman is this year's recipient. A single mother, Lisa is pursuing her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She is currently enrolled at TMCC and will be transferring to UNR in the fall. Once she graduates and works for a few years, she plans to return to graduate school. She wants to emphasize green architecture, making sustainable communities and minimizing waste.

Lisa went to UNR right after high

he should never settle for getting by in life and not pursuing his dream. Lisa is a member of the re-entry center and Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, with a 3.67 GPA.

Arthi Sachdev, an SITM scholarship recipient and former attendee at



Arthi Sanchez

our Making a Difference for Women event, spoke about her life, what she has accomplished and overcome, and how much our support has meant to her. She recently graduated from UNR with a degree in business marketing and is contemplating graduate school.

It was a privilege to honor Lisa and to see Arthi again! Coordinators of the Education Women Committee are Penney Leezy and Pam Robinson.

live
YOUR
dream

education & training awards for women

Making Money for SITM with Benefit-Mobile

By Barbara Atwell, VP Technical, Fundraising Co-Coordinator

What is Benefit-Mobile? Benefit-Mobile is an app for your smart phone that lets you shop or dine and make money for our organization. It is linked to your bank account or credit card. We get a bigger percentage of your purchase if you use your bank account due to the fees that the credit card companies charge. It is very secure if you are worried about hackers.

Benefit is very easy to use. You can go online to Benefit-Mobile.com. And create an account or go to the Play Store or iTunes and search for Benefit-Mobile. On your phone, download the app. Follow the instructions to set up your account. You will enter your payment information. They will then make two small deposits that you will enter into your app to activate your account. Your first purchase is limited to \$50.

When you are asked to pick your beneficiary, please search by your zip code. Sorooptimist International of Truckee Meadows will come up. Click on SITM and you are ready to start earning money. There are over 150 national companies that are participating with this program. Dining out at Red Lobster? When your bill comes, open your app, click on buy a new card, enter the amount of your bill plus tip (we get a percentage of the amount you buy. Red Lobster is currently 3%). Show the gift card to your server, they get the number and process the transaction. If you spent a total of \$50, you just made \$1.50 for SITM.

Rebates vary depending on the company and can go up to 20%. Benefit-Mobile also sends an email on Friday with weekend specials that can earn more. Shopping at Amazon? You can "double dip" by purchasing an Amazon gift card on Benefit-Mobile and shopping through the Amazon Smile portal.

Don't have a smart phone or want to put the app on it? Sign up on line. You can select where you are going, purchase a gift card and print it at home to take with you. Want to send a gift card to someone for a special occasion? Purchase a gift card and you can email it to them. Again, you make money for the club with no additional effort or cost to you. If everyone starts using Benefit-Mobile, we can increase our funds with no real effort.

If you have questions or need help, I am available before and after the meetings to help. GET ON BOARD WITH BENEFIT-MOBILE!

Celebrate International Women's Day March 8

By Pam Sutton, Member, Human Rights/Status of Women Committee

On March 8 people throughout the world will celebrate International Women's Day. The first International Women's Day was held in the United States in 1909, spearheaded by the Socialist Party of America. In 1910 in Copenhagen, the Socialist International group followed by establishing an International Women's Day to honor women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage. In the years leading up to WWI the movement was largely supported by socialist organizations, which tended to support women's rights more than the general population.

Although the principle of equality between women and men was part of the original Charter of the United Nations that was signed in 1945, the UN only began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975. With support from the UN, International Women's Day has become an internationally recognized platform to promote fundamental human rights initiatives for women.

In 2017 the theme for International Women's Day is "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". This

bold goal seeks to achieve equality for women in the workplace throughout the world. The UN has identified several key measures of workplace equality, one of course, is the pay gap.

As we are painfully aware, this isn't just an issue for developing countries, but here in the United States as well, in spite of the Equal Pay Act, which was signed into law by President Kennedy 55 years ago! Although Nevada ranks in the top 10 in terms of wage equality(1) women still earn only 84 cents for every dollar a man earns in our state.

Nevada finally got around to adopting an Equal Pay Act in 2015. However, as our Nevada legislative session opens, the Equal Pay Act will be up for revision, as the majority leaders in both the Senate and Assembly consider it to be "toothless". According to Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford, it "doesn't provide a cause of action for a woman who's been unlawfully discriminated against by being paid less for the same amount of work as a man."(2)

We will keep tabs on this issue and watch with anticipation as Nevada's legislative session progresses. Stay tuned!

(1) <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/studies/new-york-women-wage-gap-retirement-savings/>

(2) <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2017/jan/24/qa-gun-background-checks-minimum-wage-increase-amo/>

February Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Editor's Note: The Board made some calendar changes requested by committees to accommodate speaker and member schedules.

On March 2, the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee will present this year's recipient of The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women.

On March 16, the International Goodwill and Understanding (IGU) Committee will present their annual Nepal Pledge Drive with an update on the club's various projects in Thulipokhari, Nepal by Dr. Purna Subedi.

On June 1, the installation of President Rikki Hensley-Ricker and SITM's new officers, directors and delegates will be held (instead of June 29). The Photo/Scrapbook/Year in Review Committee will host the June 29 meeting.

Welcome New Member

Welcome to Alexandra (Alex) Lutz, who was inducted at the February Business Meeting. Alex is an associate research professor of hydrogeology at the Desert Research Institute. She was sponsored by Kay Dunham.

It's Time to Nominate New Officers

Believe it, or not, a newly empaneled Nominating Committee will begin work this month to compile a slate of candidates willing to serve as officers, board members and delegates for the 2017-2018 Club Year. Serving as Coordinator is Kay Dunham, selected by President Jennifer Burnitt; Jeanne Naccarato, selected by the Board; and Dot Watts selected by the membership.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership position for SITM next year, please contact the Nominating Committee. Plus, you may nominate someone you think would be great serving SITM, including nominating yourself to the committee. They will ascertain the willingness of your nominee to serve.

The election will take place at the April Business Meeting.

Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Ad Hoc Committee Formed

Membership Co-Coordinator Patty Mamola presented a proposal, along with Co-Coordinator Kay Dunham, for SITM to explore a Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program at Hunter Lake Elementary, an "at risk" school in Washoe County.

The proposal targets pre-eighth-grade girls with a two-fold mission to: 1) identify obstacles to high academic achievement and bring the necessary resources to

eliminate the obstacles; 2) bring the resources needed to increase the number of girls that ultimately pursue STEM related college degrees and careers.

The board recommended and the membership approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to pursue the planning, implementation and evaluation of such a project, along with a minimal budget of \$500 during the investigation phase of the project.

The committee is charged with preparing the plan for implementation as early as May 2017.

The ad hoc committee is seeking passionate, dedicated members to drive this proposal forward. See Patty or Kay, if you are interested in participating.

Thanks to Youth Set for May 25

The Thanks to Youth Committee submitted their budget for this year's Thanks to Youth program, scheduled for May 25. The speaker for the event will be Dr. Angie Taylor, President of the Washoe County School Board. At the April 6 meeting, the committee will be holding a kick-off meeting to outline the event, ask members to sell tickets and seek volunteers needed for the event. Plan to bring a guest to this annual celebration of our Unsung Heroes and youth scholarship recipients.

Happy Dollars for January & February

Happy Dollars for January raised \$188 for the Sierra Stickers group to buy material and other supplies. February Happy Dollars are designated for the Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra.

Membership Changes

The Board approved a leave of absence through June to Alysia Peters, as she works at the Nevada Legislature in Carson City. Remaining on leave is Teresa Mentzer through June for family and personal reasons.



February is not only a short month, we were also short on members attending and celebrating birthdays at the February Business Meeting. Hospitality Coordinator Vivian Ruiz presents Anna Mc Ardle with a birthday surprise.

10th Annual Making a Difference for Women a Big Success

SITM hosted its 10th annual Making a Difference for Women skills training seminar for unemployed and underemployed women on Wednesday, February 1. It was attended by 47 clients representing 11 different partner agencies. Twenty-seven SITM members and volunteers spent their time and talents making this a special day for attendees.

Workshops included Mock Seminars, led by Alysia Peters, giving attendees the opportunity to learn the “do’s and don’ts” of interviewing, plus suggestions for how

to put your best skills forward. The Money Matters and Why it Matters Workshop was led by Donna Myers, from Bristlecone

At lunch, attendees were inspired by speaker Moshay Akala, who told of her difficult upbringing, her struggles as a single mother, her battles with a medical disability and how these milestones in her life created the strong woman, mother and grandmother she is today.

An annual attendee and member favorite is always the “fashion show” illustrating appropriate attire for various jobs; how to accessorize and interchange clothes on a limited



Penney Leezy, with Kay Dunham registers participants arriving in the morning.

Family Resources, and covered budgeting, goals for saving and resolving debt issues.



Dot Watts unloads donated clothes headed for the Clothes Closet.



MADFV Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato kept the program moving throughout the day.



Jan Bogikes also packs a load of donated clothing.

Gloria Chua, Business Services Representative for the Northern Nevada Business Services Office spoke to the assembled group about Being Prepared to Job Search. She covered how to set realistic goals; how to and where to search and find jobs; and where to find training that is available.



President Jennifer Burnitt welcomes participants, plus highlights the mission of Soroptimist.

budget. The highlight is always the inappropriate way to dress and appear for a job interview.



Gloria Chua gave advice about how and where to search for jobs.

Continued from page 8

Five different participating vendors were on hand for attendees to learn about educational, job, and



Donna Myers from Bristlecone Family Resources, conducts the Money Matters and Why it Matters Workshop.

training opportunities, as well as legal services. Milan Institute of



Margie Hermanson assists Eileen Fuller demonstrate how to vary her wardrobe.

and purses that would help them in getting and keeping a job.

Thank you to Co-Coordinator Rikki Hensley-Ricker for all of her advance work to plan the day, and to Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato for stepping into run the event. Special thanks to all of the hardworking members who worked at all levels to make this year's Making a Difference for Women a rousing success.

Continued on page 10



Five participating vendors provided job, education and legal information to participants



Dot Watts demonstrates how not to dress and act during an interview, with commentary from Margie Hermanson.



Moshay Akala inspired participants at lunch with her life challenges and successes.

Participants were given the opportunity to practice their interview skills during the Mock Interview Workshop, led by Alysia Peters.

Cosmetology donated haircuts, beauty and spa packages as door prizes.

The day concluded with the annual highlight, the Clothes Closet. Members and friends collect work appropriate attire that is stored at Jeanne Baxter's Ethan Allen throughout the year. While the workshops are in progress, members separate the clothes into sizes for the attendees "to shop" for clothes, shoes



Continued from page 9

At the conclusion of the day, attendees were asked to complete a survey to help make next year's event even better. Here is a sampling of a few of the comments written when asked:

“What was the most useful part of the day?”

“The financial seminar was amazing.”

“Learning how to budget was helpful.”

“I enjoyed the Mock Interviews. The instructor was very helpful with suggestions on how to interview successfully.”

“I met the nicest lady named Linda. She really made me feel accepted and valued.”

“Donation closet, because they were well needed.”

“How friendly the members were and how they presented the information.”

“I enjoyed the mock interview and the fashion show. Good information and how to's. I enjoyed every moment. Keep up the good work ladies.”

“Knowing people believe in me. I would say my self-esteem was raised from a 4 to a 6.”



Shopping at the Clothes Closet is always a favorite at the event.



From left: Awaken Reno Executive Director Melissa Holland and Reno Manager Jen Robinson; Senior Program Attorney for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Kelly Ranasinghe, JD, and Amy Saathoff, Curriculum Development Manager; Human Rights/Status of Women Coordinator Doris Phelps; President of SI/Reno Suzanne Borough; HR/SoW Committee Member Jo Ann Roberts.

January Focused on Human Trafficking

At the January 5 meeting, the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee presented speaker Kelly Ranasinghe, JD, Senior Program Attorney for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Kelly spoke on the issue of human trafficking and the plight of the young women and women forced into that life. Several special guests working in the same field were also in attendance.

NCJFCJ is publishing a series of blogs authored by experts on domestic child sex trafficking. The series is in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Kelly and NCJFCJ has asked Soroptimist to promote the series to members and to others through social media, Facebook, Twitter or via E-mail. Their first blog article, authored by Judge Stacy Boulware-Eurie from Sacramento County is available here: <http://www.ncjfcj.org/Judges-Perspective-Working-with-DCST-Victims>

What Else Was Happening at SITM in February

Dear Soroptimists:

Thank you for your generous donation last month of \$227 from your organization's Happy Dollars program. What a great idea. This donation will benefit Noah's Reno and was matched for the holiday season by an anonymous donor. We are grateful to share that we met the match goal of \$20,000 – thanks to so many generous donors like yourself.



We have made exciting progress with our new facility. The existing structure was demolished last month and design has been finalized for approval. CAAW, our new partner shelter, reported that 50 women refused to enter their facilities this year due to the lack of an escape plan for their pets. They would not leave their best friends behind at the hands of their abuser. We can't open fast enough this year!

With Gratitude,
Staci Alonso
Director/Founder, Noah's Animal House



Our President, Jennifer Burnitt, celebrated her 40th birthday in February, with a little help from Margie Hermanson and members. Margie baked Jennifer a cake for her to take along on a birthday trip and provided the festive balloons at the meeting.

A Reminder About Meeting Reservations

The Attendance Committee would like to remind members, if you are unable to attend a meeting, send an email to the Attendance Committee at sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com no later than noon, on Tuesday before the meeting.

- If you wish to bring a guest, please notify the Attendance Committee at sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com no later than noon on Tuesday before the meeting.
- For special meetings like Women's Scholarships or Thanks to Youth, the deadline is no later than noon on the Monday before the meeting.

Failure to notify the Attendance Committee means that you will be charged for the luncheon at the usual cost.



January Happy Dollars of \$188 were donated to the Sierra Stitchers to buy quilting and other supplies. SITM members who belong to the stitchers group include, from left, Marilyn Pearson, Dot Watts and Jan Bogikes. We recently learned that their quilts are given to newly adopted children and Harmony Hobb's son Ricky loves his quilt made just for him.

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 Staybridge Suites
 10559 Professional Circle, Reno

SITM Board 2016-17

President
 Jennifer Burnitt
 President – Elect
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 VP/Technical
 Barbara Atwell
 VP/Service
 Alysia Peters
 Recording Secretary
 Doris Phelps
 Corresponding Secretary
 Jeanne Naccarato

Treasurer/General Fund
 Anna McArdle
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Kay Dunham
 Director, 2 Years
 Vivian Ruiz
 Director, 1 Year
 Pam Sutton
 Delegate
 Bev Perkins
 Alternate Delegate
 Lynne Catrow
 Parliamentarian
 Margie Hermanson



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

Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org

Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org

Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . . Volunteer Organization Protection Act

SIA is a co-sponsor of the Volunteer Organization Protection Act of 2015 (VOPA) - H.R. 2290. This bill amends the 1997 Volunteer Protection Act and would extend liability protection to volunteer organizations similar to protections that are already provided to individual volunteers.

In 2015, SIA asked you to contact Congress to express support for the Volunteer Organization Protection Act. Our members took action and your efforts were recognized. I'm excited to share that VOPA is gaining traction with 58 co-sponsors. Now that the next session of Congress has begun, we want to gain more momentum for VOPA.

SIA still needs your help! The new 115th Congress is now in session and they need to hear from YOU.

Find more resources here to write <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/how-we-serve/advocacy/vopa/learn-more-about-vopa.php>, call or visit your U.S. Senator or House Representative and urge them to co-sponsor VOPA.

The following organizations have also joined the coalition to support VOPA:

Civitan International
 JCI
 Kiwanis International
 Lions Clubs International
 National Ambucs

National Exchange Club
 Optimist International
 Quota International
 Rotary International
 Ruritan National

Sertoma
 Special Olympics
 Toastmasters International
 YMCA
 Zonta International

Thank you for taking action to protect the work of SIA and to ensure we're all able to continue improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Elizabeth M. Lucas - Executive Director & CEO, Soroptimist International of the Americas / LiveYourDream.org