



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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December 2017

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- December 21 & 28 – DARK
- January 4 – Making a Difference for Women K/O
- January 9 -- Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bristlecone Family Resources
- January 11 -- Business Meeting
- January 18 – Dream It. Be It.
- January 25 – Live Your Dream Award
- January 31 – Making a Difference for Women, Atlantis
- February 1 – Soroptimist and SITM History
- February 6 – Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bristlecone Family Resources
- February 8 -- Business Meeting

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.



2017 Has Been an Amazing Year

How is the holiday season already upon us? 2017 has been an amazing yet incredibly quick year. As always we stay a very active club and it appears that we are going to stay that way for a while. We are supporting the fundraiser for the Attorney General's Human Trafficking initiative; the club is looking at restructuring our board so the next two business meetings will be very important to the club's future; and Making a Difference for Women is right around the corner.

As always, and why I enjoy being a part of SITM, our club offers various ways to be involved. We can have hands on projects with those we serve, we can make items or assemble packages to give to those we serve, or we can pass out our hard raised monies through scholarships for those we serve. We can even help create better processes

and consider options for the structure of our club. We are never without ways to get involved.

Thank you to all members of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows for all you have done in 2017, and thank you for all you are doing and will do in 2018. Here is to a wonderful 2018!

Cheers,
 President Rikki



President Rikki Hensley-Ricker, center, with Fundraising Co-Coordinators Barbara Atwell, left and Penney Leezy.



Congratulations to Becky Moody, the winner of the club's 50-50 raffle.

And the Winner Is ...

For months the Fundraising Committee has been encouraging members to sell their 50-50 raffle tickets, with 50% of the proceeds going to the club. The lucky winning ticket was drawn at the December 14 Business Meeting. The winner of \$2,008 is member Becky Moody.

Thank you to everyone who sold or bought tickets to support SITM's Service Fund.

Making a Difference for Women Seeking Volunteers

Making a Difference for Women Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato presented a budget for the Wednesday, January 31 event that includes a continental breakfast, lunch and workshop materials. Members will be asked to volunteer their time before, during and after this skills training seminar for unemployed and under-employed women. If you can volunteer even a couple of hours the day before the event to sort clothing, or that morning before the event to set up the Clothes Closet, your help is needed. Of course, members are needed during the day to check-in participants, engage in the workshops and staff the Clothes Closet.

The committee is also seeking donations of "chatzkes" to fill the goodie bags for approximately 50 attendees at the all-day skills training seminar. Some suggested items are highlighters, packets of tissue, pads of paper or notebooks, hand sanitizer, small snacks. No worries if you don't have a total of 50 items. The committee will mix and match items.

MADFW is January 31 Drop off Clothes at Ethan Allen

The Making a Difference for Women skills training seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 and your gently used clothing, shoes and accessories, appropriate for work, are needed for the Clothes Closet at the end of the event.

Once again Jeanne Baxter has graciously offered storage space at Ethan Allen. Drop off your donations at Ethan Allen (located at 9065 S. Virginia Street, Reno).

Donation Hours: Tuesday – Saturday;
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Donation Drop Off: Near the flagpole and be sure you mention the donation is for Making a Difference. Check in at reception if you need assistance.

****Please mark the size(s) on the clothing items and provide hangers to allow for easy storage and transportation.**



"Women, Water and Leadership" – SI President's Appeal By Pam Robinson, Human Rights/Status of Women Committee

Every Soroptimist International (SI) President proposes a "President's Appeal" with a goal to unite Soroptimists worldwide, across all four federations. Our clubs are called upon to raise funds for the Appeal during the President's two year tenure (2017-2019).

Newly elected SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen's focus is "Women, Water & Leadership". The appeal supports projects that educate, empower and enable women and girls to manage water resources and gain careers in water-related professions. The aim is to increase awareness of the vital role of women as equal partners at all levels of the water sector.

Water is life – Safe, accessible water is crucial to preserving life. Water fuels our bodies, cleans our homes and clothes, irrigates our crops and more. Annually four billion people experience severe water shortages, and women and girls are disproportionately affected. They are forced to be the primary water

carriers for their families instead of earning an income or going to school. The potential contributions of women in water development remain largely untapped. Of the millions of paid water-related jobs worldwide, currently less than 17% are filled by women.



President Mariet's appeal will promote the inclusion of women in water resource governance as experts and leaders. At least five projects will be supported on five continents that educate, empower, and enable women and girls to lead in water and that also embrace United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim is to raise a minimum of £350,000 (or approximately \$469,000 US) over the next two years to empower at least 500 women to be self-supporting through implementing water projects. Some 100 women will be enabled and educated to take on leadership roles.

More information can be found on the SI website (www.soroptimistinternational.org).

Thanks To Youth Team Has Been Busy

By Mary Beth Roselli. Thanks to Youth Co-Coordinator

The team has a tag line, "Racing to Success". Hopefully, that is also what we are doing too, "racing" to a successful event. We are trying to create an event we are proud of and increase our scholarship program for next year.

Thanks to Youth is SITM's annual luncheon and presentation of scholarships for high school seniors, along with the "Thanks to Youth" program celebrating ordinary youth who are doing extraordinary things in our community.

Please reserve the date of May 17 and invite your friends. In fact, many of you are probably involved with book clubs or groups that may not be associated with Soroptimist such as running clubs, bunco, or cycling. Maybe you could gather a group of them to buy a table for this event. The more tickets we sell and raffle tickets we sell, all of this will make the scholarship fund grow and we can help more students.

Our speaker is Matt Eck, the Director of the Wolf Pack's Strength and Conditioning at UNR. He happens to be Margie Hermanson's son-in-law and we are so happy he agreed. It fits the theme of the year. I have no doubt he will be a wonderful speaker for our event.

Also, if any of you know companies that may be interested in helping with sponsorship, raffle items, or purchasing tables/tickets, please let us know. We have received \$1500 from the Dermody Properties again this year (thank you Becky Moody) so we just need to find a few more of these generous companies.



Member Becky Moody, Controller for Dermody Properties presents President Rikki with a check for \$1,500 from her firm as a sponsorship for the May 17 Thanks to Youth program. Dermody Properties is a long-time sponsor of the program.

Quite a few members showed up at the December Business Meeting wearing their beautiful Christmas sweaters.



Member Feature**Keeping Up With Amanda Strong -- Not an Easy Feat**

By Faye I. Andersen

She's an insurance account manager by day, a Lady Bighorns Dance Team member evenings and weekends, and a college senior working on a dual major in-between time. That's only part of what the multi-dimensional new member Amanda Strong is up to these days. Amanda is a transfer member from Soroptimist International of Reno, who joined SITM in August.

Calling herself a "small town girl," Amanda spent the first 18 years of her life growing up in Elko. After graduation, she attended Boise State University for a year. She really liked the school, but Boise offered a communications degree and the University of Nevada, Reno offered a journalism degree. Her sophomore year she moved to Reno and transferred to UNR. She has the "perfect roommate", her younger sister Jennifer, with whom she has been close since they were children.

Amanda is currently only nine courses short of a dual major in Journalism and Criminal Justice. But it hasn't been a straight path to a college degree.

"Working was always a priority for me," Amanda said. She has tried her hand as a personal assistant, spent two years as a certified paralegal, and today it is insurance as an account manager/agency producer for Clint D. Durocher Insurance Agency, Inc. (Farmers Insurance.) She likes the challenge. "Some days it is routine, but every phone call and every account is unique," she said. "I learn something new every day in this business."

Trying her hand at violin, soccer and tennis growing up, it was dance that captured her attention in junior high

school. There wasn't much available at school, so she took private classes. Her love of dance is still with her today. Amanda is a dancer with the Lady Bighorns Dance Team. The Reno Bighorns are an affiliate of the Sacramento Kings, an NBA Basketball Team.

Amanda loves sporting events, the excitement of the game and the crowds. "As a dancer, you get to be the best of yourself you can be," she reflected. "It lets you be outgoing and to gain confidence. I love to bring an experience to the crowd during the game."

But it doesn't just happen. There are regular practices to learn routines. It is yet another time-consumer on Amanda's busy schedule. "It's a great cardio workout. You spend days practicing for 50-second performances at a game, but what better way to exercise than dancing and smiling at the crowd."

There are also appearances on behalf of the Bighorns, which Amanda likes the best of all. Due to the Bighorns' affiliation with the Sacramento Kings, she has had opportunities to work with their staff at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. As a matter-of-fact, after her dancing days are over she'd like to become an "MC", a producer and face of the show for such sporting events."

As a new member of SITM, Amanda says she is "just getting my feet wet." But she called SITM "a well-oiled machine, a professional club with formidable numbers." It is the community service that attracted her, as it has throughout her life. She selected an angel from the Angel Tree and joined the wrapping party last week. She's also looking forward to getting her sister involved with Soroptimist projects and would like to learn to sew and become a contributor to the Dress a Girl project.

We're glad you have joined us Amanda.



Amanda, at the left, with sister Jennifer.



Annie the Spaniel taking a road trip with her mistresses.



Amanda with the Lady Big Horns Dance Team (she's in the middle of the back row).

Some Fun and Fundraising in November



The prize for guessing the correct number of years of membership in SITM.

The Hospitality and Fundraising Committees teamed up to host the November 16 meeting prior to the Thanksgiving Day break.

In lieu of the annual Holiday Boutique, the Fundraising Committee conducted a fundraising raffle of items donated by members. Thank you to all who donated items. Special thanks to Margie Hermanson who did her usual "magic" to pull together items and make a beautiful display.



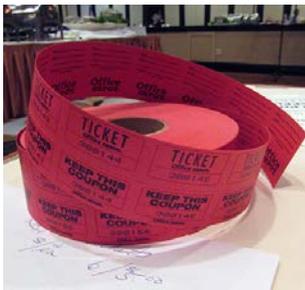
Some of the day's table topics.

The Hospitality Committee engaged members with some table topics including some "getting-to-know-you" discussion and a game to guess the total number of years SITM has in membership. Jeanne Naccarato's guess of 952 was closest. The correct answer is 1,092 years.

The fundraising raffle raised \$305 for the SITM Service Fund.



Margie Hermanson and Penney Leezy at the raffle tables.



Chris Fegert delivers a basket to winning ticket holder Millie Mitchell



Members of the Fundraising Committee delivering items to winners were Chris Fegert, Piper Mullen and Kay Dunham.



Mary Beth Roselli with tickets.



Chris Fegert and Anna McArdle choosing their desired raffle prizes.

Greeting the Holidays With a Little Social

Members were invited to gather for a wine and hors d'oeuvres social at Norma Webster's home the evening of December 14. The Hospitality Committee provided the food and Norma provided a selection of wines and beverages.

In addition, SITM took this opportunity to honor Norma for being named to the 2017 Nevada Women's Fund Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, the "Salute to Women of Achievement" luncheon was held on the same day as SITM's own Thanks to Youth luncheon. SITM purchased a congratulatory ad in the NWF printed program. At the Holiday Social, Norma was presented with a framed copy of the SITM ad, adorned with signatures of club members.



Patty Doty and Penney Leezy chatting in the kitchen.



Gathering near the wine were, from left: Jo Ann Roberts, Margie Hermanson, Jean Neddenriep, Jeanne Naccarato and Norma Webster.



Sharing a chat and a chair were Liza Chapen and Mary Beth Roselli.



Patty Downs, Pam Robinson and Pam Sutton, enjoying a glass of wine.



Enjoying the hors d'oeuvres and wine were, from left: Darlene Delaney, Bev Perkins and Linda Lamke.



Scarlet Ewy and Paula Ringkob took advantage of a chess board during the evening.



Norma Webster is presented with a memento from her induction in the NWF's Hall of Fame, as members gather for the presentation.

December Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

In December SITM's Board recommended and the membership approved participating in a new initiative to help combat human trafficking. We also heard proposals from the Organizational Assessment Committee to reduce the SITM Board from 12 to 9 members.

Benefit Dinner for Survivors of Human Trafficking

District 5 Director and SITM member Sarah Carrasco brought a proposal and motion to create a subcommittee entitled "Human Trafficking Benefit" under the Special Events Committee. The committee would work collaboratively with SI Reno and SI Washoe County to use their time and talent to join with the Nevada Attorney General's Office and the Nevada Trucking Association to host a fundraising dinner in July 2018 to aid victims/survivors of human trafficking in Nevada.

SITM will be responsible for the accounting of funds for table sponsorships, sale of silent auction items and raffle proceeds, plus payment of bills from those funds that are associated with the dinner to be held at the Silver Legacy. Soroptimists will also help with soliciting items (if possible), setting up and administering the silent auction. It is anticipated that 10 members, three from each of the clubs, plus Sarah would form the committee. Anticipated attendance at the dinner is 450.

All proceeds from this effort after expenses will be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services – "Contingency Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking".

The proposal and subsequent motion were approved by the membership. President Rikki is going to invite SI Reno and SI Washoe County to join us as a joint venture for this project. It should provide considerable exposure to Soroptimist as supporters of stopping human trafficking. Plus give the three clubs in this area an opportunity to work together on a project.

Proposal to Reduce the Board from 12 to 9 Members

Doris Phelps, Co-Coordinator of the Organizational Assessment (OA) Committee outlined their work toward implementing the Strategic Plan that club members crafted and have been working on in stages to put into action. The OA Committee was put to task in June/July 2017 to explore the current size of the SITM Board and the number and scope of club committees.

This was an informational report from the OA Committee that included the proposal and rationale for eliminating one Director position, the Alternate Delegate position and combining the duties of the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns.

The rationale for the reduction was a board of 12 is too large for the size of our organization at 73 members. Reducing the number would free up some members' time to devote more time to leadership and participating in committee work and projects.

A detailed "Fact Sheet" outlining the proposed changes and rationale was distributed to members and was attached to President's Rikki's December 14 meeting materials. If you missed it, or would like a copy, you may also contact Organizational Assessment Coordinator Doris Phelps, or President Rikki.

The Finance/Governance Committee is now making the required changes to the Club Bylaws to accommodate the proposed board reduction. They will present the first reading seeking approval of a motion to amend the Bylaws at the January Business Meeting. A second reading will take place at the February Business Meeting. If approved, the changes will take place immediately, so the Nominating Committee can begin soliciting members to stand for offices for the 2018-2019 year.

SNR Conference Looking for Sponsors

In order to offset costs to members, the Sierra Nevada Region is looking for conference sponsors to host events, meals or cocktail receptions. If your firm is interested, or you have contacts for other firms that might be interested in a sponsorship, please forward the contact names to Director Sarah Carrasco and the region will make the contact. The 42nd annual SNR Conference will be held April 27-29, 2018 in Reno at the Atlantis.

Happy Dollars for WACCS

November Happy Dollars netted \$253 for the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. December Happy Dollars are designated for the Soroptimist International President's Appeal: "Women, Water and Leadership."

Membership News

Remaining on leave is Vivian Ruiz through December for work reasons; Patty Doty through February for travel; and Lynn Robins through April for health reasons.



Celebrating December Birthdays were, from left: Penney Leezy, Harmony Hobbs and Barbara Atwell.

SITM Angels Wrap Gifts for Hunter Lake Students

Again this year the Education-Youth Committee encouraged members to provide gifts of clothing and toys for 25 disadvantaged children from Hunter Lake Elementary School. Members selected "angels" from a tree coordinated by Shirley George and went shopping for the gifts.

On December 13 members gathered at the Artists Co-Op of Reno for some fun, camaraderie and a massive wrapping party.



Marilyn Newton, a member of the Artists Co-Op, left, shared gift-wrapping duties with Amanda Strong.



Marilyn Pearson wrapping gifts.



President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato and Shirley George with an organized spread sheet to ensure the right gifts get to the correct children.



Jo Ann Roberts and Shirley George with the "Angel Tree".



A gift-wrapping good time was shared by members, clockwise from top: Piper Mullen, Jeanne Naccarato, Eileen Fuller and Shirley George.



Mary Beth Roselli and Liza Chapen map-out gift wrapping strategies amongst the gifts.

In Case You Missed These ...



Long time SITM member Bev Perkins has always been known for wearing her blue Soroptimist sash, covered with personal pins and those collected from various Soroptimist meetings and conferences. Recently, Bev was in a car accident and her sash, with pins, was taken from her car. Penney Leezy organized a pin drive amongst some of our long-time members and at the November 16 meeting she presented Bev with a new Soroptimist sash, Penney's own Laurel Society pin, plus an assortment of Soroptimist and other pins from members to begin her collection anew.



Dr. Carina Black, Executive Director of the Northern Nevada International Center, left, is shown with President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato and Carina's daughter Nadine. Dr. Black spoke at the November 30 meeting sponsored by the International Goodwill and Understanding Committee. She detailed the resettlement of immigrants in our community and the need for volunteers to help these families with their transition into life in America.

How to Raise Funds for SITM Without Really Trying

You can support Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows by shopping and swiping your Rewards Card, entering your phone number and designating SITM to receive a percentage of your qualified purchases.



Sign-up by visiting www.SmithsCommunityRewards.com. Create an account and designate SITM. Our organization number is #17204, or search "Sor" to find SITM. Swipe your Smith's card each time you shop.

If you do not have a Smiths Rewards Card, they are available in store at the service desk and there is no charge. SITM will receive 3% of all eligible purchases.



Sign up at www.escrip.com/shares/ with your email, your 10-digit phone number and create a password. Then designate SITM as your chosen charity. Our group ID number is 500825778. SITM can earn up to 3% back on qualified purchases at Save Mart Supermarkets (excluding items like alcohol, tobacco and milk).



Shop at AmazonSmile. Go to smile.amazon.com. You can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select SITM to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



Register for eScrip + Benefits at www.escrip.com and download the Benefits App to your mobile phone. Link your app to your credit card or bank account and pay for your purchases, in person and online, using the app (instead of an individual credit or debit card). When you sign up, select SITM as your favorite nonprofit and the club will receive a percentage of your purchase, depending upon the merchant. Lists of participating merchants can be found on www.escrip.com.

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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Contributing to this issue

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 Pam Robinson
 Amanda Strong

SITM Board 2016-17

President
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 President – Elect
 Jeanne Naccarato
 VP/Technical
 Dot Watts
 VP/Service
 Penney Leezy
 Recording Secretary
 Patty Mamola
 Corresponding Secretary
 Carol Dinneen

Treasurer/General Fund
 Kay Dunham
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Lynne Catrow
 Director, 2 Years
 Jennifer Burnitt
 Director, 1 Year
 Vivian Ruiz
 Delegate
 Valerie Hahn
 Alternate Delegate
 Margie Hermanson
 Parliamentarian
 Doris Phelps

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows
 P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515

www.sitmnev.org

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 Bristlecone Family Resources
 704 Mill St., Reno



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



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Did you know . . .

Soroptimist International of the Americas Progress in FY16/17

September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017

Empowering Women & Girls Through Our Access to Education Dream Programs

Live Your Dream Awards

- **1,476 deserving women** received an award (+8%)
- **\$2,095,093** was given through the program (+11%)
- **96%** of recipients reported increased self-esteem
- **80%** of recipients who completed their education reported having increased standard of living

Dream It. Be It.

- **12,265** girls participated (+42%)
- **83%** said they have the tools to overcome obstacles to their success
- **87%** feel more prepared to pursue their career goals
- **34,979** volunteer hours by clubs (+41%)



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