



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Jan. 18 – Membership and Attendance Committees
- Jan. 25 – Education-Women, Live Your Dream Award
- Jan. 31 – Making a Difference for Women
- Feb. 1 – Joy Heuer, Girls on the Run
- Feb. 6 – Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bristlecone Family Resources
- Feb. 8 – Business Meeting (wear red)
- Feb. 15 – Dream It. Be It.
- Feb. 22 – Race to the Finish Line with Service

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.



Halfway Through the “Race to the Finish Line”

When I picked the theme of “Race to the Finish Line of Service”, I had no idea the foreshadowing I was doing. This has been a busy first half of the year but we are close to accomplishing many of our goals. Dress A Girl is 27 dresses away from meeting their goal; Dream It. Be It. went from being an Ad Hoc Committee in May to being an official committee in August and needing more committee members in January; and the Organizational Assessment team is already looking to make bylaw changes next month. Our club has the finish line in our sights and we are racing to our finish line with passion and enthusiasm (I would like to say now that I will stop exhausting my theme, but no promises).



In the last couple of months, SITM’s Facebook page has been trending very well. We have over 492 likes and people following our page! A special thanks to Barbara Atwell and Lynne Catrow who have been promoting our

activities as well as general Soroptimist information. We not only have “likes” and followers across state lines but across oceans. SITM has Facebook friends all over the globe.

I am incredibly proud of what our club does and the tenacity in which we achieve our goals. I could not have picked a better team in which to surround myself with if I had tried. I consider myself lucky to have been introduced to SITM a mere three years ago. SITM has a lot of passion, excitement, and drive that makes us a very successful club, and while it can lead to agreeing to disagree, those traits also lead to making a difference in our community and our world.

Cheers to another six months of triumphs and winning this race for service (had to get in one more!)

Happy New Year,
President Rikki

SITM welcomed three new members at the January Business Meeting. They were, from left: Nancy Madrigal, sponsored by Jennifer Burnitt; Melissa Kreck, introduced by Millie Mitchell (and sponsored by Vicki Schultz), Patte Robnett, sponsored by Eve Johnson.

Wear Red

Just for a little fun, the Hospitality Committee is asking members to wear red to the Thursday, February 8 Business Meeting to celebrate Valentine’s Day.



A Bracelet Making Party for Making a Difference

As a kick-off for the Making a Difference for Women program, members and guests at the January 4 meeting got a chance to try their skills at bracelet making. Bev Perkins was kind enough to package matching beads and colors to help speed the process. President-Elect and Committee Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato spent time outlining the purpose and process for the one-day skills training seminar, the need for volunteers, "chatzkes" for the goody bags and donated clothing for the Clothes Closet. Then the bracelet making party began. Each participant at the January 31 seminar receives a handmade bracelet in their "goody bag".

A total of 27 bracelets were made and Bev put them on display at the January 11 meeting.



Darlene Delancey and Amanda Strong concentrating on their bracelets.



Bev Perkins, left, answers a beading question for Jan Bogikes as the beading begins.



Anna McArdle and Scarlet Ewy hard at work on their bracelets.



Jo Ann Roberts' daughter DeeAnn and granddaughter, Madison, contributed to the bracelet making party.

Beautiful bracelets made by members and guests at the January 4 meeting.



Member Feature - Eve Johnson**Traveling the World on a Road That Led to Reno**

By Faye I. Andersen

If you threw a half-dozen darts randomly at a map, you'd hit close to at least one place and maybe all six would correctly hit the mark where Eve Johnson has lived. A self-proclaimed "Army Brat", Eve's childhood was spent in New Jersey, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Davis and the Presidio in California and Tehran, Iran. She was born in Germany.

While living in California she took a trip "back home" to Minnesota and met her husband Dick while she was applying for a job with Northwest Orient Airlines (now Delta). Today she has been a member of "Folded Wings" (former flight attendants' social/fundraising group) for over 30 years. Soon after moving to Vancouver, BC, from Minnesota, where their daughter was born two years earlier, Eve gave birth to twin boys, two months premature. Not expecting twins, the little preemies were hospitalized for a month.

They moved to Reno in 1981. Today, Rich, a Doctor of Audiology, and Ryan, a certified commercial investment Realtor, aged 41, live and work in Reno and have blessed Eve and Dick with five of their seven grandchildren. Daughter Michelle is the mother of two more grandchildren. They all range in age from 2 to 16 years old.

Eve and Dick will celebrate 45 years of marriage this coming fall.

Eve worked as a Reno Realtor for five years prior to joining Renown Medical Center (the old Washoe Med, when she was first hired). During her 20-year career there, she served as Supervisor of the EKG Department, was a Certified Cardiographic Tech, was a Certified EMT and an Operations Support Specialist.

Mid-medical career, Eve discovered Silpada Silver Jewelry and represented their jewelry for almost 10 years until the founders retired and closed the business last year.

"Having been active in home sales, I wasn't ready to 'stop the party,'" Eve said. "I love fashion and I am now a Fashion Sales Rep for a new company, Ruby Ribbon out of Burlingame, California." Ruby Ribbon is known for their figure-fitting, shape-enhancing Cami's and leggings. "I love to do personal and group fittings (my home or yours) and am always searching for vendor and fundraising events to benefit this community," she said.

When not busy with Ruby Ribbon, Eve and the family are engaged with grandkids, babysitting, carpooling

and family travel. Even with busy careers and schedules, Eve says, "All of us have been blessed to go to Disneyland as a family every year." She and Dick love to travel and have been on more than a dozen cruises and dozens of "Cabo trips". Their favorite was cruising the Mediterranean and touring the Holy Land. Her bucket-list dream trip is traveling to Africa.

Eve has been active with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) since the diagnoses of her granddaughter Allison at age four. That was 12 years ago and since then Allison was honored with a Violet Richardson Award for outstanding community service, from Soroptimist. She says, "The award made me realize our wonderful organization, Soroptimist."

As a vendor at a local fundraiser, "Heels and Hounds" for the SPCA, Eve met Penney Leezy who shared information about Soroptimist. "I decided the timing was perfect, so I'm happy to be a member and join these women in giving back to the community." Eve says she's been impressed with all of SITM's projects and added, "The members are so welcoming and inclusive. Even as a new member I feel like I'm included in the club."



Eve with Santa (husband Dick) at a holiday event for her firm, Ruby Ribbon. The 'Bye Bye Bra' sign promotes Ruby Ribbon for women "who hate their bras and underwires" and want to try a "cami" instead.



Eve and Dick Johnson with "the magnificent seven" grandkids.

An Amazing Trip to Thulipohari, Nepal

By Monica House, IGU Co-Coordinator

What an amazing trip Steve and I had visiting our young women's hostel (dormitory) in Thulipokhari, Nepal. We were initially greeted in Pokhara by our campus president Mr. Guru Subedi and Shyam Paudel (Purna's cousin) who accompanied us on our three-hour scenic drive. Mr. Guru Subedi happily told jokes (Shyam translated) and pointed out various sites along the way. Before we knew it we were being warmly greeted by our campus chief Hari, educational council, mother's groups and what felt like most of the village.

over what we hoped to accomplish during our short visit. Not only were we here to visit, but also here to get a better understanding of the effectiveness of Soroptimist donations. They took this very seriously and went over the questionnaire I had created line by line. Over the next 24 hours we discussed, observed and visited the areas where we have and are continuing to make such a difference.



The hostel shown with the perimeter wall repaired with SITM's Disaster Recovery Funds following damage from the 2015 earthquake.

one story due to new government regulations following the earthquake.



It appeared most of the village turned out to greet Monica and Steve, adorning them with leis, scarves and flowers.

Rebuilding with Disaster Relief Funds

We started with the disaster relief funds SITM sent following the devastating earthquake in 2015. They told us how the funds were used to repair buildings partially or fully destroyed. We



Crops grown as part of the Vital Seeds program include tomatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, white radishes, lettuce and hot peppers.

A Village-Wide Reception

Our necks were adorned with leis, scarves or flowers being put in our hands. Next, we met with the educational council and went

saw classrooms 1-5 that had been repaired along with several homes of the villagers. One person's home that was originally a two-story was now only



Classrooms at the Janata Sudarshan Campus repaired with the help of SITM's Disaster Recovery Funds.

Micro-Lending Building Better Lives

Our micro-lending program including vital seeds, animal assistance and animal husbandry programs are continuing to flourish. It was remarkable to see the changes since our visit in 2012. Many have greenhouses with an abundance of

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tomatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, huge white radishes, lettuces and hot peppers. When I asked if they canned or stored any for the off season they said no, "everything is eaten or sold in the local markets".

Our Campus Chairman Guru Prada, was so proud to introduce us to his

Scholarship recipient, Laxmi Ghimire, says "I am able to pursue my bachelorette degree with scholarship. It's the great benefit for the students from the lower financial background family. I must have had to quit my formal education if I was not rewarded the scholarship. Thank you Soroptimist."

wife who is a midwife and helps many of the ladies during child birth. He and his wife also wanted us to know that because of our vital seeds program they are able to put their children through school in Kathmandu. They showed us their beautiful crops, goats, water buffalo and served us hot milk. Another family was proud to show us their grove of guava, orange trees, homemade catfish pond, goats and buffalo.

Nine Mother's Groups and Growing

We met with seven of our nine mother's groups along with meeting with the head of each mother's group separately. (The few we did not meet were out in the field for harvest). The groups we met with asked permission



Monica met with the group of leaders from the nine Mother's Groups who have formed as recipients of SITM's Micro-Lending program.

to add three more mother's groups for a total of 12 since they are continuing to grow - of course I said "yes".

SI Grant Provides for Computer Literacy Program

We talked about the computer literacy program SITM would like to implement with our most recent Soroptimist International grant. The head of each mother's group agreed to appoint one person from their group to go through the computer literacy training. Once the training is completed they will work with the young women in our dormitory, other women in the mother's groups, and villagers in Thulipokhari on how to use the computers.

The Best Part: Meeting with the Scholarship Recipients

Meeting and spending time with our scholarship recipients was the highlight of our visit. They so appreciated and loved the gifts from SITM including shirts, scarves, school supplies, and toiletry items. We visited, had them fill out a questionnaire (Shyam helped us translate), sang, danced, and spent the night with them. Many of us became friends through Facebook which is exciting! I am now able to talk with the girls first hand.

We were also able to gather data

about past scholarship recipients. To name a few: Kopila Lamsal who graduated in 2009 completed her masters and is now a banker,

Recipient Shanti Paudel says, "I am being educated. I should be ruined in my village if I didn't get the scholarship. Thank you Soroptimist."

Amika Kumari Klarki who graduated in 2010 is a teacher and Saraswati Subedi who graduated in 2011 is a social worker.

On-going Direct Contacts

Following this incredible experience and witnessing firsthand the difference SITM is making and



Scholarship recipients received gifts from SITM members including shirts, scarves, school supplies, and toiletry items.

continuing to make in this part of the world makes me proud to be a Soroptimist. This project has come so far and there is still so much for us to do in educating these young women.

My goal now is to put in a better communication system for SITM which was started during our visit. Through the help of the internet and social media we are now in direct contact with many of our scholarship recipients and are in the process of setting up direct contact with our mother's groups.

I look forward to continuing to share their stories and the difference we are making.

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Scholarship recipients wearing Soroptimist shirts brought by Monica pose in front of the hostel (dormitory) built with funds from SITM.

March 15 – Hear Monica’s Stories; Bring a Guest

Monica will be telling her story and showing photos from her trip to Thulipokhari, Nepal this past fall and her visit to SITM’s hostel/dormitory, along with news of our scholarship girls and results from our micro-lending programs.

“Leadership”

Saturday, February 10, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

District 5 Winter Meeting

Breakfast and Lunch cost \$25

Churchill County Museum, Fallon, Nevada



The “Call to Meeting” is available from President Rikki, or at club meetings. A sign-up sheet is circulating.

Sign-up or complete and send in a registration form by February 2 to avoid a \$10 late fee.

Leadership (projects/fundraising, club leadership)

Leadership (region, April conference and SIA)

Presidents’ Updates from the Nine District 5 Clubs



Please bring a package of diapers to donate to SI/Fallon’s project to support Care NET Pregnancy Center

January Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Congratulations to three new members, Melissa Kreck, Nancy Madrigal and Patte Robnett who were inducted at the January Business Meeting. Melissa is a Financial Analyst with the Hamilton Company. She was sponsored by Vicki Schultz. Nancy is the owner of Madrigal Insurance Group Services LLC. She was sponsored by Jennifer Burnitt. Patte is a retired business owner of Nevada Heating and Air Conditioning. She was sponsored by Eve Johnson. Welcome ladies, we're glad you have joined us!

Attend the District 5 Winter Meeting February 10

District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco outlined the upcoming Winter District Meeting, to be held on Saturday, February 10 at the Churchill County Museum in Fallon. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting called to order at 10 a.m. Adjournment is expected by 3 p.m. The cost is \$25 for breakfast and lunch.

The theme of the meeting is "Leadership" and taking on leadership roles for projects, in clubs, region and federation. SI/Fallon is supporting Care NET Pregnancy Center and is asking attendees to bring diapers as a donation. Sign-ups and more information will be available at club meetings. See page 6.

New Club Chartering set for February 11

Director Sarah also announced the chartering of a new club, SI/Fernley. In coordination with the Saturday District Meeting in Fallon, plans are underway for a Sunday, February 11 brunch to celebrate the new club chartering. More information will be forthcoming on the arrangements.

Making a Difference Seeking Volunteers and Items for "Goody" Bags

The Making a Difference for Women all-day skills training seminar is set for Wednesday, January 31 at the Atlantis. Members are asked to volunteer their time before, during and after the seminar. 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 especially needed during the day to check-in participants, engage in the workshops and staff the Clothes Closet. Sign-ups are circulating.

The committee is still looking for items to put in the "goody bags" distributed to participants. Any amount between 10 – 50 works. Some suggested items are pads of paper or notebooks, hand sanitizer and small snacks. Individual packets of tissue (Kleenex) and hi-lighter pens are especially needed. No worries if you don't have a total of 50 items. The committee will mix and match items. If you have questions, contact

President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato, who is collecting donations.

See page 8 for information about donating clothes for the Clothes Closet.

Dress a Girl Still Has Material

Dress a Girl Coordinator Penney Leezy reported that 123 dresses have been completed. Penney still has materials available for members who wish to sew dresses. Anyone having receipts for materials and wishing reimbursement should contact Penney. She still has some contributions to cover expenses, plus the region has offered money to pay expenses as well. The cut-off for completed dresses is April 12, prior to the SNR Conference. Thank you to all of the members, family and friends who have contributed to this project.

Human Trafficking Benefit News

In December, District 5 Director and SITM member Sarah Carrasco proposed and the membership approved a Special Committee entitled "Human Trafficking Benefit". The members of SI/Washoe County have accepted SITM's invitation to join us in working with the Attorney General's office to host a fundraising dinner in July 2018 to aid victims/survivors of human trafficking in Nevada.

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". Director Sarah will be outlining the specifics of the event and Soroptimists' duties at the February 22 club meeting.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments to Reduce Board Positions

Organizational Assessment Committee (OA) Co-Coordinator Doris Phelps reminded members of the presentation made at the December Business Meeting recommending to reduce the number of board positions by eliminating the positions of Director, 2-years and Alternate Delegate, plus combining the duties of the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries.

Representing the Governance Committee, Faye Andersen presented the first reading of proposed amendments to SITM Bylaws that would be necessary to accomplish the reduction of board members from its current size of 12 to 9 members. Handouts were distributed showing the detailed language of the amendments to be voted upon by members following the second reading at the February Business Meeting.

Doris also discussed the committees' work and recommendations on reorganizing the club's committees

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Celebrating birthdays at the January Business Meeting were, from left: Paula Ringkob, Jennifer Burnitt and Patte Robnett.

Education-Youth Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller hugs Hunter Lake Elementary School Counselor Matt Albrecht while delivering gifts. SITM members adopted 25 Children in Transition students at the school and purchased Christmas gifts for each, along with some siblings as well. Members held a wrapping party on December 13 at the Reno Artists Co-Op. Eileen and Shirley George did the honors of delivering the gifts to the school before Christmas.



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to align with the club's, region's and federation's strategic plans. A handout was distributed showing the realignment of the club's committees into four categories: Programs, Membership, Fundraising and Public Awareness.

The OA and Governance Committees will be developing the necessary amendments to Club Bylaws and Policies and Procedures to affect the proposed committees' realignment. These amendments will be brought to the February Board and Business Meetings for review and consideration.

The changes to the board and the committees are proposed to become effective in July 2018.

Revised Club Calendar and Committee Assignments Announced

President Rikki Hensley-Ricker has issued a revised club calendar, as well as an updated list of members' committee assignments. They were attached to her January Business Meeting agenda packet. Contact President Rikki if you need a copy.

Happy Dollars for SI President's Appeal

December was a short month, but \$174 in Happy Dollars were collected for the December 10th Soroptimist International President's Appeal. An additional \$100 budgeted for this project will also be contributed to the SI President's Appeal, "Water, Women and Leadership". January Happy Dollars are designated for Urban Lotus, empowering at risk and underserved youth and young adults through trauma-informed yoga and meditation practices.

Membership News

Remaining on leave are Patti Doty through February for travel; and Lynn Robins through April for health reasons.

**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.**



January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

By Doris Phelps, Human Rights/Status of Women Committee

A \$32 billion annual industry, modern day trafficking is a type of slavery that involves the transport or trade of people for the purpose of work. According to the U.N., about 2.5 million people around the world are ensnared in the web of human trafficking at any given time. Human trafficking impacts people of all backgrounds, and people are trafficked for a variety of purposes. Men are often trafficked into hard labor jobs, while children are trafficked into labor positions in textile, agriculture and fishing industries. Women and girls are typically trafficked into the commercial sex industry, i.e. prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation.

Human Sex Trafficking is the Cruellest

Not all slaves are trafficked, but all trafficking victims are victims of slavery. Human sex trafficking is a particularly cruel type of slavery because it removes the victim from all that is familiar to her, rendering her completely isolated and alone, often unable to speak the language of her captors or fellow victims.

Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. Each year, an estimated 800,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders with many thousands more trafficked within their own countries.

In our own communities, here are the monthly number of women and children commercially exploited by location:

Reno 900 – 1,000
Sparks 175 – 200
Carson City 95 – 100
Lake Tahoe 200 – 225

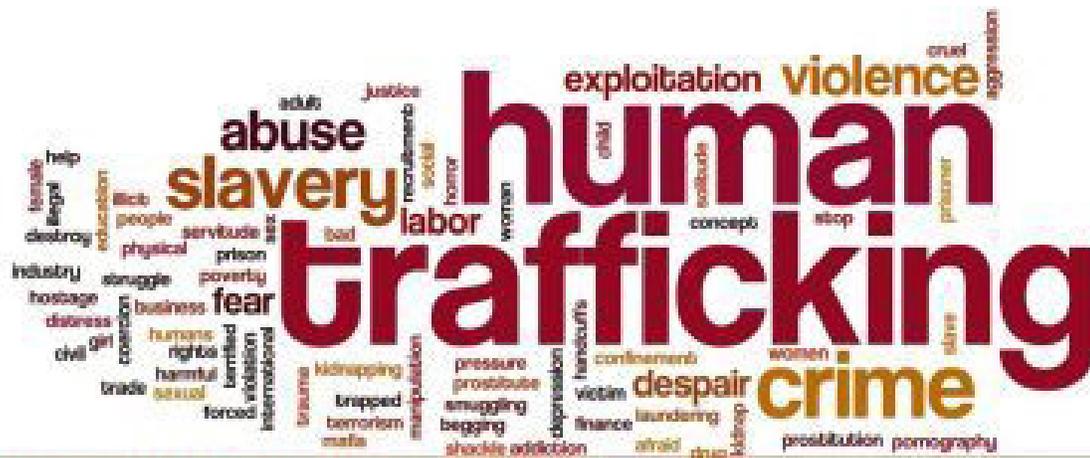
(Source: data compiled by The Human Trafficking Initiative, Creighton University, Omaha NE, 2016. Info retrieved from the Awaken Reno website. Data includes the number of inquiries made through Backpage, a commercial sex advertising website)

Soroptimist Responds

As an organization of business and professional women working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities throughout the world, Soroptimist undertakes a number of projects that directly and indirectly help potential trafficking victims.

The Live Your Dream Awards program—Soroptimist’s major project—provides women who are heads of households with the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. By helping women to receive skill and resource training, Soroptimist provides trafficking and potential trafficking victims with economic options.

SITM will be partnering with the Nevada Attorney General’s Office in support of a fundraising dinner in July to benefit victims of human trafficking in Nevada. Director Sarah Carrasco will be reporting on this event in the coming months.



National Human Trafficking
Awareness Day
www.NationalDayCalendar.com

January 11

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

President Rikki Hensley-Ricker
rhensleyricker@bristlecone.com

Editor Faye I. Andersen
fia@pyramid.net or
 775-358-5149 or 432-5822

Contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 Niki Ewing
 Doris Phelps
 Monica House
 Sarah Carrasco
 Shirley George
 Eve Johnson

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 . . .

Sharon Fisher Named Soroptimist International President-Elect



Sharon Fisher, Past Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) Federation President Sharon Fisher has been elected as the Soroptimist International (SI) President-Elect. Her duties commenced January 1, 2018 and will run through the end of 2018.

SITM members will remember Sharon from her visit to our club in March 2016, when our club was awarded a \$20,000 grant as part of the SI President's Appeal -- Educate to Lead: Nepal. Sharon accompanied SI President Yvonne Simpson, SIA President Sam Bachenau and SIA Past Presidents Poco Davis, and Cheri Fleming.

Sharon is from British Columbia, Canada, outside Vancouver, where she is an active member of SI of the Langley's in Western Canada Region. Her Soroptimist service has included club, region and federation leadership. She has served on the Soroptimist International board and most recently held the position of Assistant Director of Advocacy, where she chaired the President's Appeal, Educate to Lead: Nepal.

Sharon is the Director of Administrative Services for a not for profit association bringing education, awareness and prevention of adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect to communities throughout the province. Prior to this, her career was primarily around publicly traded companies.