



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Volume 23 • Issue 9

March 2018

www.sitmnev.org

In this issue

- 1 – President's Message, Election of Officers
- 2 – Ruby Award Recipient, Member Announcements
- 3 – Member Feature Linda Walker
- 4- 5 – District 5 Winter Meeting, Newly Chartered SI/Fernley
- 6-7 – Dream It. Be It., International Women's Day
- 8 – Ed-Youth Committee, Rewards Cards
- 9 – Board & Business Recap
- 10 – Staff Box, Did You Know

Calendar

- March 15 – IGU Feature Nepal Trip, Pledge Drive
- March 22 – Fundraising Committee
- March 29 – Finance & Governance Committee
- April 5 – Thanks to Youth Kick-Off
- April 10 – Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bristlecone Family Resources
- April 12 – Business Meeting
- April 19 – Committee Descriptions & Sign-Ups
- April 26 – Women's Scholarships
- April 27-29 – SNR Conference, Atlantis, Reno

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.



SITM Projects Honoring Women and Girls; Looking Ahead to Next Year



Happy March! We are in the throes of preparing and planning for the presidential-year-to-come. Thank you again, to the Nominating Committee, to all of you who considered

running for office, and to all of you who are running. President-Elect Jeanne is lucky to have all of you!

We're also in the midst of celebrating all the amazing women in our community, and abroad. We were able to honor Lt. Col. (ret.) Charley Wyatt Smith with the Ruby Award March 1, and this coming week we will be hosting a pledge

drive to support the amazing young ladies in Thulipokhari, Nepal. What these young women and girls had to endure to attend school, but are now housed in a comfortable dorm with computers and more (thanks to the hard work of SITM and many friends), is to be celebrated and honored. The obstacles Charley and the school girls of Thulipokhari have and do overcome to get all they can out of life is more than most of us have ever dealt with.

SITM, thank you for what you have done to recognize local community members and school girls abroad in this, the month of International Women's Day.

Your's in appreciation,
President Rikki

Election of Officers for 2018-2019 Club Year Set for March 12

Congratulations and thank you to the following members who have agreed to stand for election to the following offices for the 2018-2019 Club Year. You are all admirable for wanting to be a part of the leadership team for SITM.

- President-Elect – Penney Leezy
- Vice President/Program – Valerie Hahn Dot Watts
- Vice President/Membership – Chris Fegert
- Secretary – Linda Walker
- Treasurer – General Fund (2 year position) – Pam Robinson
- Delegate – Amanda Strong

The following officers are completing a multi-year term of office.

- President – Jeanne Naccarato
- Treasurer/Service Fund – Lynne Catrow
- Director – Rikki Hensley-Ricker

Election of officers will commence at the April 13 Business Meeting. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor, with the candidate's willingness and a short bio from the candidate.

If you will not be attending the April 12 Business Meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available from Nominations Coordinator Diana Dillon, along with instructions on how to submit them to her at: 1992 Union Street, Sparks, NV 89434

Thanks to Nominating Committee Coordinator Diana Dillon and members Valerie Hahn and Pam Sutton, for their efforts to bring us an outstanding slate of members willing to stand for office.

Ruby Award Recipient is a Champion for Women in the Military

The Human Rights/Status of Women Committee presented SITM's Annual Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women. This year's recipient, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charley Wyatt Smith, was introduced by Piper Mullen from the committee. Charley was honored for her accomplishments, passion and dedication to improving the lives of women who have served in the military, both

in our state and across the nation.

Charley was presented with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 designated to the charity of her choice. She chose to donate her \$1,000 to SITM's Thanks to Youth project. Charley's nomination has been forwarded to the Sierra Nevada Region.



Human Rights/Status of Women Member Doris Phelps presented a \$1,000 check to this year's recipient, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charley Wyatt Smith.



Charley chose SITM's Thanks to Youth program as her designated charity. Accepting her check are Thanks to Youth Co-Coordinators Mary Beth Roselli and Liza Chapen.

Congratulations are in order for two SITM members who recently made life-changing announcements.



Diana Dillon announced her engagement to long-time Soroptimister Jeff D'Matai. Her engagement ring was described as being so bright, "it would light up a room."



Melissa Kreck also announced, she and Casey eloped to Patagonia, Chile and were married on February 12. They also hiked 80 miles in Torres de Paine, which are the mountains behind the happy couple.

Member Feature - Linda Walker**A Career-Driven Woman Enjoying the Pace of Northern Nevada**

By Faye I. Andersen

For most of her life, it has been all about career for Linda Walker ... her education, her life's work and work ethic, even her marriage and move to northern Nevada had a career orientation.

Linda is a fourth generation Californian and she grew up in the same house as her parents and grandparents, which was built by her great grandfather in 1921 in Altadena, California. She even went to the same high school as her mother. Comparisons diverge from there.

In college Linda studied Marketing and Merchandising and whether she knew it at the time or not, it was the start of a lifelong career calling. Upon graduation, she went right to work in the retail business, becoming a major sales force for large scale stores and businesses.

Years later, while at a food sales convention in Sacramento, she met one of her customers, Bill Walker. Bill was a Raley's store manager in Sparks. Her career drive took a short hiatus when they decided to get married. That was in 1995 and it opened a whole new world for Linda. Bill had two children, Diana and Kenny, from a previous marriage so Linda married into the family. With the children now grown, Linda and Bill are grandparents to a granddaughter, aged 14 and grandson, aged 10. They also have two "furbabies", a pair of Cairn Terriers.

It was a culture shock moving from the hustle-and-bustle of Southern California to the contrasting solitude of northern Nevada. "But it was a good culture shock" says Linda. She loves the mountains and desert and the less crowded landscapes.

The move also brought about a career change for Linda. She and Bill started their own business, B&L Gift Distributors. They began distributing gift ware to major drug stores and food chains. From a warehouse in Sparks, they and their employees purchased, packaged and shipped their giftware to stores around the country. The closure of Long's Drugs in 2008, their biggest customer, meant it was time to scale back the operation for Linda and Bill.

Today they are buyers for approximately 250 stores and employ 10 merchandisers working in Nevada, California

and Utah to set-up, replenish and monitor their giftware sales. With one-eye towards retirement, both she and Bill have been enjoying "glamping" in their travel trailer.

"I traveled a lot when I was younger," Linda said, "So I'm not interested in any worldwide travel now. When we retire, we'd like to travel to see the U.S."



Linda and Bill Walker

Linda's introduction to Soroptimist began two years ago when neighbor Harmony Hobbs invited her to attend SITM's Thanks to Youth luncheon. She followed that up by joining Harmony at SITM's Making a Difference for Women all-day skills training workshop. She was impressed by both events. Linda was an avid volunteer for this year's

Making a Difference event, assisting with the fashion show and donating two scarves for each of the attendees. She's looking forward to getting involved in the upcoming Thanks to Youth event this year.

Linda says she loves being a Soroptimist. "I love the friendships and camaraderie," she said. Having been a member less than a year, she hasn't chosen a favorite SITM program yet, but has enjoyed everything she's been involved with so far.

Linda joined SITM in September and the week before her induction ceremony as a new member, she attended the District 5 Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 9 in Reno. Now that is Soroptimist commitment.

We're glad you've joined SITM Linda and look forward to you joining us in many our projects and programs.

Amber and Alexandra, sister Cairn Terriers, on a "glamping trip" with the Walkers.



Focus on Leadership at District 5 Winter Meeting

By Delegate Valerie Hahn and President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato

Nine members of SITM attended the District 5 Winter Meeting, February 10 in Fallon. The meeting was conducted by our own District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco and hosted by SI/Fallon.

Several clubs held raffles and our own Penney Leezey participated for SI/Truckee Meadows raffling off a designer handbag, a beautiful silver necklace, and a bottle of wine in a decorative carrying case. Penney also won the raffle from SI/Washoe County, which was a wagon filled with wine and goodies.



Fundraising Co-Coordinator selling raffle tickets at the District Meeting.

During the opening of the meeting first time attendees were recognized, including our own Valerie Hahn.

The theme of the day was Soroptimist Leadership, from a local club level to the region level. Director Sarah led off the presentation by discussing Soroptimist leadership is built in the local clubs by mentoring, delegating, sharing information (minus an ego), and motivating to achieve a common goal. She stressed the natural progression from club board member to region offices as a personal growth and engagement opportunity.

Sarah discussed Leadership in terms of the Three Leadership Qualities of being Assertive, having Empathy, and Social Intelligence. She also outlined Eight Critical Elements of a successful leader:

- Listening
- Critical Thinking

- Feedback
- Time Management
- Planning and Implementation
- Motivation and Acknowledgement
- Clear Direction and Purpose
- Organization/Delegation

Sue Chambers, President of SI Fallon, discussed Leadership in terms of Leading Projects and Fundraising. She stressed that successful events involve:

- A Plan, based on club size and capabilities
- Shared processes and information
- Developing potential leaders with current chairs as mentors
- Delegating activities to avoid burn out
- Getting out of the way of progress, no micro managing
- Getting to know your members and having fun!

The group then discussed individual offices in a club with helpful hints for achieving success provided by members of different clubs. These comments pretty much mirrored the previous discussion on leadership, including one that stood out ... "Decide to Be a Leader" as leadership is a conscious decision and a goal. A scary thought at first until you realize the wealth of support and knowledge

in your club to help reach your goal. Summed up, Leadership embodies, "Being the Person Others Want to Follow!"

Individual Club President reports included our own President Rikki Hensley-Ricker. All are doing well in terms of membership, with SI/Fallon chartering a new club in Fernley to be called SI/Fernley. All clubs have various fund raising events planned and are participating in the Dress a Girl campaign. Many have committees on Human Trafficking, Dream It. Be It. and either have a strategic plan or are developing one.

Governor Vicki Watson encouraged participation in all levels of leadership in Soroptimist and outlined the progression from local clubs, to district, to regions, to federation at Soroptimist International of the Americas, SIA level. She also emphasized the importance of building a foundation on the Four Pillars of Program, Fundraising, Membership and Public Awareness in achieving success at any level in the hierarchy of the Soroptimist organization.

Governor Vicki went on to discuss



Nine members from SITM attended the District 5 Winter Meeting in Fallon. From left are: Jo Ann Roberts, Penney Leezey, Valerie Hahn, Kay Dunham, District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco, Carmella Cipollina, President Rikki Hensley-Ricker, Jeanne Naccarato and Faye Andersen.

Continued from page 4

the Sierra Nevada Region Board is made up of the six District Directors, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Governor-Elect, a Governor, and an appointed Parliamentarian who all serve two year terms of office. There are also 28 committees of the Sierra Nevada Region. She requested interested parties to sign up for committees and included a handout of the committees and their "Responsibilities/Time Commitment". As one rises in the Soroptimist leadership organization, there is not much difference in the expectations and responsibilities; they just encompass a much larger audience and time commitment.



Forty-nine members from nine of the 10 District 5 Clubs were represented.

We were encouraged to attend SI Fernley's Charter Ceremony on Sunday, the Region Conference in April, and the SIA Conference in

Japan in July. District 5 Director, Sarah Carrasco, closed our meeting with Happy Dollars for Care Net Pregnancy Care Center of Churchill County and the Soroptimist Pledge.

New Soroptimist Club Chartered in Fernley, Nevada

Welcome to the newest club in the Sierra Nevada Region -- Soroptimist International of Fernley -- chartered by SI/Fallon on February 11, 2018. Five members of SITM traveled to Fernley City Hall for the charter ceremony and brunch. SI/Fernley becomes SNR's 55th club, bringing the region's membership to 1,659 total members.



Members of the newly chartered Fernley Club stand in the background. Seated in the foreground are Trudy Mills, District 5 Representative for SNR's Membership Committee; Governor Vicki Watson; District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco and Sue Chambers, President of SI/Fallon, the chartering club. SI/Fernley President Daphne Hooper, standing far left, is the City of Manager for the City of Fernley.

Dream It. Be It. Career Support for Girls: A Progress Report

By Faye I. Andersen



Patty Mamola, Co-Coordinator of the DIBI Committee presented an update on the programs's progress at the February 15 meeting.

15 meeting, including the philosophy behind the program and photos of some of the projects.

SIA's Dream It. Be It. Career Support for Girls program is designed to help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live their dreams.

SITM decided to build our club's DIBI program around girls 12-years

education and careers unless they have technical opportunities and professional role models. As an example, Patty shared that the after-school group contains no sixth-grade girls, not because they weren't invited, they just showed no interest.

Patty spoke of engineering myths and truths, and cited an important truth, "Exposing children to engineering gives them confidence to pursue it as a career, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socio-economics."

After meeting with Washoe County School District officials and presenting the idea for the DIBI program, Hunter Lake Elementary was chosen due to SITM's previous engagement with the "at risk" school. The school is 51% impoverished, but needs 54% of students as the milestone to be eligible for federal assistance.

Emphasis on the bi-weekly programs is placed on The "E" in STEM, since

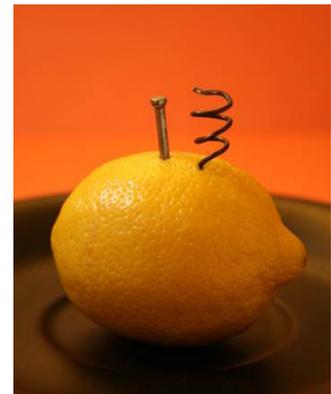
Every other Tuesday afternoon, when the bell signals the end of the school day, something special happens at Hunter Lake Elementary school. Twenty to twenty-two third, fourth and fifth-grade girls gather in a classroom to learn about and practice Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education and lessons. They are led by a group of SITM Soroptimists who have adapted a Soroptimist International of the Americas' Dream It. Be It. (DIBI) program for younger girls with a focus on STEM education.



Working in teams, the girls built portable sustainable gardens with follow-up assessments of how the gardens were thriving.

DIBI Co-Coordinator Patty Mamola presented an update on the program's progress at the February

and younger with a focus on STEM education because many studies show that girls don't follow STEM



A lesson on creating electric current, included a lemon, a nail and copper wire.

engineering principles pull the science, math and technology together. Each project the students undertake includes the same principles used during the professional engineering process of ask; imagine; plan; create; and improve.



The top three t-shirts designed by the girls will be narrowed to the winning choice and each girl will be presented a t-shirt at the concluding session in May.

[Continued on page 7](#)

Continued from page 6



Decorating cookies contained a lesson on the engineering process for imagining, planning, creating and improving the perfect design.

To date, the DIBI Committee has led the students in creating t-shirt designs. One design will be chosen for their group to be presented at the concluding session in May. Building “lunar landers” from a selection of index cards, marshmallows, straws, masking tape and a small cup representing a module, became a team exercise. Teams also built portable sustainable gardens with assessments of how the gardens were growing. Individual projects have also used the engineering process to decorate cookies, make beaded bracelets, generate electricity using a lemon, a nail and cooper wire, plus building snowmen as holiday decorations.

There are a half-dozen more DIBI sessions before the end of the school year and the committee has more fun and exciting STEM projects planned for the girls. But, it isn't just the committee that gets to have all of the fun. SITM members are actively welcomed, along with suggestions for programs with the girls. More SITM members are needed to help conduct the meetings, work with the girls and be positive role models. If you can donate a couple of hours for one of their Tuesday afternoon meetings from, 3-4 p.m., contact DIBI Co- Coordinators Kay Dunham and Patty Mamola.

Celebrating International Women's Day – March 8

By Doris Phelps, Human Rights/Status of Women Committee

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

IWD has been observed since the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and a rise in radical ideologies. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter work hours, better pay and voting rights. The activism continues.

Not one government, NGO, charity, corporation, academic institution, women's network or media hub is solely responsible for IWD. Many organizations declare an IWD theme, many of which are organized around their specific cause or agenda. World-renowned feminist, journalist and social and political activist Gloria Steinem states, “The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”

2018 marks an especially active time in women's voices being broadcast throughout the world with thousands of women marching through their cities and towns in support of women's and human rights. The “Me Too” movement, a record number of women filing as candidates for public office and other social media initiatives, and corporate policy changes regarding women in the workplace have taken hold in 2018 in the U.S. as well. SITM has responded in its own way by coalescing the club's interests and activities for the advancement of women's issues into its newly established Empowerment for Women Committee.

Source: www.International Women's Day.com



Elisa Cafferata and Molly Walt, from the Nevada Commission for Women spoke at the February 22 meeting. Some of the goals of the “re-activated” commission are to increase the number of women on state boards and commissions and in leadership positions in government.



Education-Youth Committee Preparing for Thanks to Youth, May 17

By Eileen Fuller, Education-Youth Co-Coordinator

After soliciting applications from Washoe County schools, the Education-Youth Committee's next task was to evaluate them all and come together to share our rankings. Co-Coordinator Jo Ann Lessly



Education-Youth Committee members Carol Dinneen and Dot Watts signal their approval of scholarship applications.

was our host. After a delicious Mexican themed potluck, we got down to business. Selecting only six scholarship winners out of 18 applicants was not easy, nor the unsung hero selections. They are all great young people!

We started with our top choices and voted, making it no one person's decision to "be the bad guy" and it was surprising how many of us voted for the same kids. Now our tasks include notifying everyone, and arranging photo shoots for the recipients, and getting their reservations sorted out for the luncheon on May 17, in coordination with our Thanks to Youth Committee.

You will want to sell a lot of tickets (or buy a table?) so we not only honor these bright minds, but raise more money for next year!



Education-Youth Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller tallies up the voting for Youth Scholarships.

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 #AA433, or search "Sor" to find SITM. Swipe your Smith's card each time you shop. You must sign-up annually for this reward.

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 5% 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.

March Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

It's March already and our hard-working Nominating Committee presented a slate of members willing to stand for election to SITM offices for the 2018-2019 Club Year. Thanks to all who have stepped forward to serve SITM. For a complete listing of the slate and more details on the upcoming election, see page 1. Elections will be held at the April 12 Business Meeting. If you will not be in attendance, an absentee ballot can be obtained from Nominating Committee Coordinator Diana Dillon.

District 5 Delegate's Report

SITM Delegate Valerie Hahn reported on the activities and topics covered at the District 5 Winter Meeting, held February 10 and hosted by SI/Fallon. Nine SITM members attended and Fundraising Coordinator Penney Leezy conducted a raffle that netted \$227 in proceeds for the Service Fund. For the complete report and photos, see pages 4 & 5.

Policies and Procedures Amended to Achieve Committee Realignment

Doris Phelps, on behalf of the Organizational Assessment Committee and the Finance/Governance Committee presented the amendments to the SITM Bylaws recommended to facilitate a realignment of the club's committees to further align with the region's and federation's strategic plans. A second reading of the amendments will be made at the April Business Meeting for approval by the membership.

Doris also presented the recommended amendments to the club's Policies and Procedures that would affect the realignment of the club's committees into four categories, Programs, Membership, Fundraising and Public Awareness and realign some of the committees' duties. The board recommended and the membership approved the amendments.

Any members who may have missed the handouts, explanations and discussions distributed and held at the past three Business Meetings, or were attached to President Rikki's agendas, please see Doris for copies.

Amendments reducing the number of positions on the SITM Board from 12 to 9, approved by the membership last month and additional changes to Policies and Procedures and Bylaws relative to committee realignments will become effective in July 2018.

Alternate Delegate to SIA Convention

Due to personal, family and work considerations, President Rikki Hensley-Ricker is unable to be SITM's delegate to the SIA Biennial Convention in Yokohama, Japan. The alternate delegate will be President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato.

Sierra Stitchers Say Thanks for Happy Dollars

During announcements, Dot Watts, representing Sierra Stitchers said "thank you" for the February Happy Dollars in the amount of \$372. Dot, Marilyn Pearson and Jan Bogikes are all members of the Stitchers, a group of volunteer quilters who provide handmade quilts, stuffed toys and baby items for the clients of numerous local women's, children's and family services agencies. Happy Dollars for March are designated for a project of the International Goodwill and Understanding (IGU) Committee.



Celebrating their March birthdays at the Business Meeting are, from left: Kay Dunham, Jo Ann Lessly, Jeanne Naccarato, Margie Hermanson and Doris Phelps.

SITM Update 
Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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 Niki Ewing
 Doris Phelps
 Jeanne Naccarado
 Patty Mamola
 Linda Walker
 Eileen Fuller
 Harmony Hobbs
 Valerie Hahn

SITM Board 2017-18

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

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

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



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 . . .

Thanks from the Members of Step 2

Dear Members of Soroptimist:

We would like to thank you for developing and hosting “Making a Difference” workshop and including Step 2. We appreciate the time, energy and effort your organization put into this event. We also enjoyed meeting members one-on-one and learning about Soroptimist.

We were overwhelmed with the amount of information we received in such a short amount of time.

Unfortunately, two of us had to leave before the end due to a family emergency. The ladies staying enjoyed the fashion show and, of course, shopping.

Here at Step 2, many of us are in the process of job seeking, so the interview section was especially helpful. We have also begun working on our goal setting.

With extreme gratitude,
 Step 2 Resident

