



# SITM Update

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*

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April 2018

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

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## Calendar

- April 19 – Committee Descriptions
- April 26 – Women's Scholarships
- April 27-29 – SNR Conference, Atlantis, Reno
- May 3 – Committee Sign-ups
- May 8 --Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bristlecone Family Resources
- May 10 – Business Meeting
- May 17 – Thanks to Youth Event
- May 24 – Health Committee
- May 31 – Public Awareness

## SITM Meets...

### Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
Second Floor Convention Center  
\$20 for lunch

RSVP to [sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



## Thank You For Choosing to Serve SITM

Happy Spring! It must be spring in Reno if in a matter of 24 hours I go from wearing flip flops to my winter coat. Can you believe it's already April?!?! In less than two short weeks, we will be heading to SNR conference, in a month we will be deciding our committees to

(besides this year's, or any other year's for that matter).

Thank you all who chose to run for office; it is never an easy decision. As busy women with multiple responsibilities and obligations, the decision to run is heavily weighed and discussed. But at the end, we are all a part of this organization for the same reason- love of mission. So we choose to commit time that is already stretched and give again to a larger cause.

Thank you all who considered, who ran, and who will serve next year and in future years. And if you have yet to consider, I have a feeling you will when the time is right for you.

Congrats and many thanks, President-Elect Jeanne and the incoming board of 2018-19!

Yours in Soroptimism,  
President Rikki



2017-18 President Rikki Hensley-Ricker, left, with 2018-19 President Jeanne Naccarato.

join for the 2018-2019 Club Year, and we just voted in an amazing board

## New Officers Elected for 2018-2019 Club Year

Congratulations to the newly elected officers who will serve SITM along with President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato during the 2018-2019 Club Year. Elections were held at the April 12 Business Meeting. They are:

- President-Elect – Penney Leezy
- VP/Program – Dot Watts
- VP/Membership – Chris Fegert
- Secretary – Linda Walker
- Treasurer – General Fund (2 year term) – 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

Thank you to all of the members

volunteering to stand for office.

Thanks for a good job to Nominating Committee Coordinator Diana Dillon, members Valerie Hahn and Pam Sutton, and the election day committee of Patty Downs and Doris Phelps.



Facilitating the election were: Diana Dillon on the left, with Patty Downs. Signing in and receiving their ballots were: Patti Doty in the foreground, Jean Neddenriep and Millie Mitchell.

## Don't Miss Women's Scholarship Luncheon -- April 26

By Pam Robinson, Education – Women Co-Coordinator

Scholarship awards will be presented to nine undergraduate and three graduate students at SITM's annual scholarship luncheon to be held Thursday, April 26. The first scholarship was awarded in 1980, and since then SITM has helped 295 undergraduates and 98 graduate students for a total of over \$1 million. As always, the women being recognized have amazing stories of determination and in some cases survival. They are majoring in nursing, dietetics, molecular biology, geology, engineering, medicine, business, social work, and radiology technology.

Our keynote speaker will be Racquel

Abowd. Racquel is currently Director of Sales and Marketing at Hometown Health, a new position for her after 14 years in education. She is a former TEDx UNR speaker and committee member for TEDx Carson City. In addition to her education background, she has previously worked as a merchandising manager and in the financial planning field.

Our undergraduate scholarships are in memory of three amazing women – Nancy Gomes, Mary Gojack and Sue Camp. Our graduate scholarship is in memory of Jack Simon, our own life member Jeanne Baxter's husband, who generously supported our early scholarship fundraising efforts.



Racquel  
Abowd

Plan to attend this wonderful luncheon. It is a great opportunity to bring guests. We will be joined by many Sierra Nevada Region officers and directors, as well as our Federation Official Visitor from Soroptimist International of the Americas.

## Thanks to Youth Luncheon Update

By Mary Beth Roselli, Co-Coordinator, Thanks to Youth

We want to thank everyone for selling those tickets and tables for Thanks to Youth. We have \$6,500 in ticket sales and sponsorships so far but we have a ways to go.

So to entice you to help attain our goal of over \$15,000, we thought we will raffle two more gift certificates to the members who bring in the two highest sponsors. The drawing will take place at the April 26 meeting. So starting Thursday, April 12, we will keep track of the sponsorships that come in and will announce the winner on April 26.

Hopefully, these awards will inspire and motivate our recipients to push themselves and realize their true potential.

Our Thanks to Youth and Education Youth committees are busy and looking forward to hosting a wonderful event. We are all working hard to make sure things run smoothly and honoring our youth is our number one goal. We will need volunteers for greeters and ticket sales for raffles. Sign-up sheets will be distributed at the May meetings.



Some of the members of the Thanks to Youth Committee during the kick-off of the program and sale of tickets and sponsorships for the May 17 event. Back row from left: Paula Ringkob, Pam Sutton, Education – Women Co-Coordinator Jo Ann Lessly, Pam Robinson, Linda Walker, Vicki Schultz and Ana Nadimi. Front row, from left: TTY Co-Coordinator Mary Beth Roselli, Education-Youth Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller and TTY Co-Coordinator Liza Chapen.

**31st Annual**  
**Thanks to Youth Luncheon**  
*Honoring Young Heroes in Our Community*  
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
**May 17, 2018 • Noon - 2pm**  
Seating begins at 11:30am  
\$30  
Presented by  
Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows  
A portion of the donation may be tax deductible.  
Ticket printing generously donated by Digiprint.

**Atlantis**  
CASINO RESORT & RENO  
3800 South Virginia  
Reno, NV

Sell those tickets

**Member Feature - Melissa Kreck****Former Scholarship Recipient is Now an SITM Member**

By Melissa Kreck

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon by my dad and grandfather and followed them to Reno in 1995. In 1997 I became pregnant and had my daughter, Naomi, when I was 18.

Though no one in my family had gone to college and I really didn't have an understanding of what college was, I knew it was important for me to obtain a college degree. Not only to better myself and be able to provide financially for me and my daughter but also because I knew by me having a college education, statistically that would improve my daughter's chances to have a better life.

Vicki Schultz was one of the first people I met after moving to Reno. Knowing I was enrolled and attending courses at TMCC, Vicki told me about the Soroptimists and their scholarship opportunities. I enthusiastically applied and was awarded the Nancy Gomes/Mary Gojack/Sue Camp Scholarship in 2003. Meeting with the scholarship committee was a very significant event in my life. It was the first time anyone had sat down to talk to me about my goals and ambitions and told me they believed I could achieve those goals. From that moment, I knew I wanted to join the Soroptimists one day so that I too could be part of providing women with the encouragement they need when they need it.

I graduated from UNR with my Bachelor of Science in 2005. As soon as I started college, I instantly enjoyed attending classes and learning. I quickly knew I wanted to continue my education and attend graduate school. I

returned a few years later and earned my Masters of Business Administration from UNR in 2011.

Raising my daughter, working, and attending school all at once never seemed hard or impossible. I wanted to do it, knew I could, and I knew I had to. Some of my fondest memories are reading textbooks out loud to Naomi while giving her a bath or passing a textbook off as a bedtime story. She never once complained when I dragged her to the library on weekends to meet with study groups and she never made me feel guilty for not having more free time. Naomi and I are very close and I could not have asked for a better kid.



*Melissa and Naomi at her graduation at Reno High School.*

Though times were not always easy or stable for us, I knew it was all worth it when I dropped Naomi off at college in August 2017. She is attending Seton Hall in New Jersey and working on earning a Bachelor of Science in Finance. For being so far away, she adjusted quickly and is doing very well. She comes home every break she has and I go out to visit her often. I am absolutely proud of her and know she will do great in life!

I had been so focused on raising Naomi and finishing my education, my personal life had been on stand-by until just recently. Unexpectedly in 2016, I met the most perfect man for us, Casey Kreck. He immediately became part of mine and Naomi's life. From day one of meeting Naomi, he put himself into parent mode and the three of us became an instant family. With Naomi's permission, Casey proposed while we were swimming in the ocean on our first family trip together to Bora Bora. And again with Naomi's permission, Casey and I eloped in Patagonia, Chile in February 2018.

It has been 15 years since I was first introduced to the Soroptimists and experienced the group's truly remarkable strength and support. With the encouragement and friendship from Vicki Schultz, Millie Mitchell, and Becky Moody, who I have been lucky enough to know over the years, I am now a Soroptimist!



*Melissa shown with her daughter Naomi Smith and husband Casey Kreck at a UNR football game.*

## Dress a Girl Project Exceeds Goal

In August 2017, Sierra Nevada Region Governor Vicki Watson declared the international project for her biennium would be asking members to facilitate the sewing of dresses for Dress a Girl Around the World (DAG). VP of Service Penney Leezy took the project under her wing and began coordinating fabric and money donations and distribution, sewing supplies and members (along with family and friends) to sew the dresses.

The project is an existing endeavor by Hope 4 Women International and Governor Vicki asked each club to participate by sewing dresses, donating fabric and materials, or donating money for others to sew the dresses.

Penney set a goal for SITM to produce 150 dresses and weekly she has attended meetings distributing fabric and materials, instructions and encouragement for members to sew dresses. At the April 12 meeting she announced that a total of 203 dresses have been sewn, a corresponding set of "panties" have been tucked into the dresses' pockets and they have all been packaged and ready for delivery to DAG Ambassadors in northern California for distribution nationally and internationally.

A count of all of the dresses sewn by SNR clubs as part of DAG will be revealed at the SNR Annual Conference, April 27-29 in Reno, by Governor Vicki.

### A Sewing Super-Human is Honored

Many members, their families and friends, sewed dozens of dresses each. But it was Marilyn Pearson who topped the count by sewing 48 dresses herself for Dress a Girl. Plus, she donated an untold amount of fabric and sewing supplies on the way to her record-breaking achievement.



In recognition of her work, Penney presented Marilyn with a lovely orchid plant, the \$40 stipend check offered by the region.

Congratulations and thanks to all of the members who contributed in some way to this project.

# Saving the Best For Last IGU's 40th & Final GARAGE SALE

One last time we need your donations!!!

Drop-Off at Ethan Allen

## SITM'S GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 2, 2018

at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home

1140 Alpine Circle, Reno



Proceeds to benefit the  
Nepal dormitory/scholarship

## WORKERS NEEDED

*Friday Night Set-Up*

*Pizza and Margaritas*

*Saturday Sales & Clean Up*

Sign-up sheets at the meetings

See Linda Lamke

Call Judge Connie at

**(775) 771-7512**

For Questions

## Dollars and Sense of Fundraising and Spending

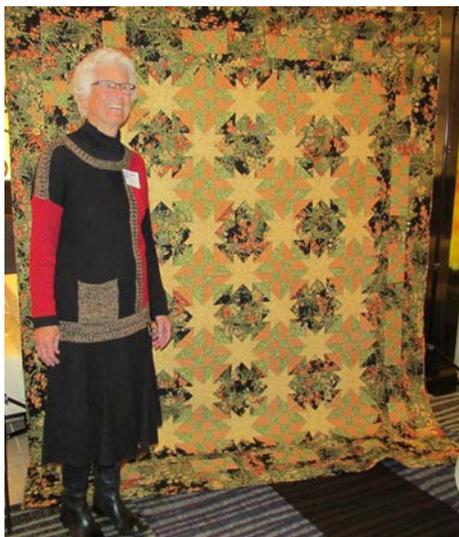
Where do SITM's fundraising dollars come from? Where do they go?

Fundraising Committee Co-Coordinator Penney Leezy tackled those questions on March 29 with some detailed answers and charts to show the club's fundraising efforts and the program expenses covered by that fundraising.

In addition, Co-Coordinator Barbara Atwell reviewed the organizations which offer "cash back" to SITM, when members shop at Amazon Smile, Smith's, Save Mart Supermarkets, e-script + Benefits. She offered, and will continue to offer members help and instructions on how to obtain the Benefits app on their phones to facilitate purchases.



Fundraising Co-Coordinators Barbara Atwell and Penney Leezy



Jan Bogikes has donated another one of her beautiful quilts for a fundraising raffle.

### Upcoming Fundraising Events

Penney also discussed upcoming fundraising events to include a raffle for the beautiful quilt donated by member Jan Bogikes and another 50/50 raffle to be launched later in the year. A reprise of the "Sip & Shop" event has been

researched and the fees, permits and regulations required by the City of Reno, the Reno Fire and Heath Departments have made the event unworkable at Ethan Allen at this time, and maybe other locations as well. The committee will be going back to the planning stages and invites members to join them and submit ideas.

## Time to Select Your Committees - April 19

It's that time of year to be thinking about which committees you would like to serve on next year. Or better yet, which committees you might like to serve as Coordinator or Co-Coordinator.

Here's your chance to learn all about which committees are responsible for which tasks. It's a short-hand lesson in how SITM gets all of its program and operational work completed throughout the year.

At the April 19 meeting, Penney Leezy, VP of Service Committees and Dot Watts, VP of Technical Committees have marshalled the club's coordinators and co-coordinators to give members an overview of each committees' duties and responsibilities.

It's a precursor to the club meeting on May 3 when members are asked to sign-up for committees of their choosing.

All members are encouraged to serve on a minimum of one Program Committee and one additional committee (Membership, Fundraising and Public Awareness Committees), as a requirement of membership.



## A Lesson in Cybersecurity and Fraud



Erin Ticor

Erin Schiller, a cybersecurity expert with Ticor Title, alternately amazed and terrified members at the April 5 meeting with tales of cybercrime and fraud. She zeroed in on new privacy regulations and resulting safeguards implemented by title and mortgage companies, financial organizations and others. (Who knew

the fax machine would make a comeback to combat electronic fraud and identity theft.)

Laws passed by the Nevada Legislature in 2015 (Nevada Revised Statute 603A-040) require entities to safeguard, even encrypt or otherwise provide security of personal information of clients, even patients.

## Annual Pledge Drive Features an Up Close Look at the Nepal Project

International Goodwill and Understanding (IGU) Committee member Judge Connie Steinheimer kicked-off the annual Nepal Pledge Drive on March 15 by recapping the milestones achieved since the inception of SITM's project "Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal". More than 90 members and guests attended the program.

Entering its nineteenth year, the project continues to provide dormitory housing, room-and-board, plus scholarship tuition for girls to attend school. To date, over



*Monica and Steve were honored guests in the village of Thulipokhari.*

1,428 girls have been able to receive an education thanks to SITM. More than 200 families have accessed micro-loan funds provided by SITM in order to buy water buffaloes, goats, chickens and bee hives and participate in the Vital Seeds program to grow food to feed families and for sale. There are between 60-70 micro-lending loans out at any given time.



*Monica House and Dr. Steve Friedlander presented photos, video and highlights of their trip to Nepal to visit our projects in Thulipokhari.*

The highlight of the program was the presentation by Monica House and her fiancé Dr. Steve Friedlander discussing their travels in Nepal this past fall and the photos and videos they brought home with them.

Annually the IGU Committee holds its Nepal Pledge Drive in March to raise funds to continue supporting dormitory housing and school tuition for girls, as well as the various micro-loan projects. For a brochure detailing the project and a pledge form, contact Monica House or Connie Steinheimer.

## SITM Receives Second SI Grant for Educate to Lead: Nepal Program

By Monica House, IGU Co-Coordinator

SITM was recently awarded a second grant in the amount of \$20,000 from Soroptimist International President Yvonne Simpson's President's Appeal project (2015-2017), "Educate to Lead: Nepal".

These needed funds will allow the graduate students to complete their education by continuing past our initial two year grant. This is very exciting news! These young women who were recruited from all different castes and all over the region are now able to obtain a college degree. The scholarship covers room, board, tuition, books and all supplies.

The grant will support 20 girls at \$500 per year. Currently there are 13 girls in the graduate program.

Last year, Soroptimist International gave SITM a \$14,000 grant to start a computer literacy program and computer lab for a minimum of 11 women – one from each of the women's groups that SITM helped the village develop.



*Some of the scholarship recipients who reside in the dormitory.*

## April Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

It was a busy month for Soroptimist business with election of officers and preparations for two of SITM's premiere events.

### Voting for Next Year's Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected SITM officers. Voting took place at the April Business Meeting. For a list of the 2018-19 SITM Board, see page 1.

### Budget Drafts Presented to Membership

Finance/Governance Committee Co-Coordinator Vicki Schultz presented the draft Service and General Fund Budgets to the membership at the April Business Meeting. The General Fund Budget includes a \$5 dues increase to cover increases from our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, to include a cost of living increase and an increase in club liability insurance.

A vote to accept the budgets will be taken at the May Business Meeting.

### Upcoming Fundraising Events and News

Fundraising Committee Co-Coordinator Penney Leezy reported on the pending launch of fundraising events. First will be a quilt raffle, thanks to the generous donation and beautiful artistry of Jan Bogikes, who has donated another quilt. Tickets will be sold at next week's SNR Conference and throughout the summer. The committee is planning the return of the 50/50 raffle into the new Club Year.

Penney also mentioned the purchase of a new Square for credit card processing that is capable of taking chipped credit cards and is compatible with the latest Apple and Android phones. She has donated a personal laptop to the club that can be used in conjunction with the Square. The Square can be used at SITM's fundraising events and potentially used for weekly meeting fees and club dues.

For more news of fundraising activities, see page 5.

### Dress a Girl Project Exceeds Goal

Congratulations to the sewing members of SITM, their families and friends. According to VP-Service Penney Leezy, you've exceeded SITM's goal and sewn 203 dresses for SNR Governor Vicki's Dress a Girl project. On April 12 the total had reached 189 dresses. See more information on DAG and the club's sewing super

human on page 4.

### Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Amendments Complete

After months of meetings, planning, bringing amendments before the membership, revisions, first-and-second readings and votes ... it's done. For now, anyway. Organizational Assessment Coordinator Doris Phelps reported on the final changes to the Club Bylaws to bring them into alignment with Policies and Procedures changes to club committees previously voted by the membership.

Thanks to members of the Organizational Assessment and the Finance/Governance Committees for their dedicated work to implement changes that coincide with SITM's Strategic Plan.

### Happy Dollars Hits High Mark

Happy Dollars for March, designated for an IGU Committee project, netted \$950 in March. April Happy Dollars are designated for the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada.



*Celebrating their birthday in April were, from left: Mary Beth Roselli, Niki Ewing and Scarlet Ewy. Each provided some funny stories about the worst job they ever held, in addition to their most courageous acts.*

### Can You Volunteer a Couple of Hours at Conference?

If you are planning to attend the SNR Conference April 27-29, at the Atlantis, and you have a couple of hours to spare, Margie Hermanson needs some help staffing the tables for the fundraising purse raffle. All proceeds benefit the SNR Endowment Fund.



President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato has been working on achieving her Laurel Society membership. General Fund Treasurer Kay Dunham “pinned” Jeanne with her new Laurel Society pin. The Laurel Society is Soroptimist International of the Americas’ prestigious recognition program for donors who contribute gifts totaling \$1,000 or more. Donations help empower women through the Live Your Dream Awards and other Soroptimist programs.

## Exciting News From Members



There’s something in the air. Valerie Hahn recently announced her engagement to Blane Harding, Director of Advising, Recruitment and Retention in the College of Science at the University of Nevada, Reno. Congratulations Valerie and Blane! Last month Diana Dillon announced her engagement to Jeff D’Matai. Plus, Melissa Kreck and husband Casey Kreck were married in Patagonia, Chile in February.

## Sign-up for Conference: You’re Late, But NOT Too Late

The Sierra Nevada Region Conference is being held April 27-29 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno. The registration deadline has passed, but you can still attend with a \$35 late fee. The cost is per meal, with no other registration fees. So sign-up for just the portion you will attend.

SITM members attending conference for the first time are covered on a reimbursement basis for meals.

Some very interesting women will speak this year.

Saturday morning, Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect Elizabeth Di Geronimo will be presenting an update on what is happening within our federation.

Saturday afternoon the Keynote Speaker will be Jennifer Spear, MBA presenting: “Soroptimist UnScripted: Think Faster: Lead Smarter: Act

Now.” Jennifer is a recovering corporate executive who now helps organizations **Do Things Differently** and work **UnScripted**. Jennifer works with teams and organizations to help them Solve Problems, Plan Strategically and make innovation and creativity a reality in their workplace.

Saturday evening’s speaker is familiar to SITM members. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Sharlee “Charley” Wyatt Smith is presenting: “Realizing Your Dreams Against All Odds.” You will remember Charley was our Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women recipient.



**April 27 - 29, 2018**

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
3800 S. Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502

Register for Conference:

<http://www.rsvpbook.com/SNR2018>

Reserve your rooms using DISCOUNT code  
'SSNVR2018': <http://bit.ly/2n5lqjs>



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- Jo Ann Roberts
- Rikki Hensley-Ricker
- Doris Phelps
- Jeanne Naccarado
- Valerie Hahn
- Pam Robinson
- Mary Beth Roselli
- Melissa Kreck
- Penney Leezy

**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

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

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



# Did you know . . .

Last month, in honor of Women’s History Month, Doris Phelps from the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee reminded us of how far women have come in the past 100 years with these ...

**Things American Women Couldn’t Do in the 1920’s**

1. Have her own name printed on a passport.
2. Hold a job while pregnant.
3. Serve on a jury.
4. Enlist in the military or receive benefits for military work.
5. Work the night shift as a way to protect women from those “rough men” and other safety hazards. (The day shift isn’t much better as it turns out.)

List by Nicole Gardner, which appeared in “Mental Floss”.





# **31st Annual Thanks to Youth Awards Luncheon**

**Honoring Young Heroes and Scholars in Our Community**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018**

**Seating at 11:30 am - Program Noon - 2:00 pm**

**\$30 per person**

**Tables of 8 and Sponsorships Available \$350 - \$1,500**

**Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows  
will recognize:**

**6 Outstanding Young Scholars  
Receiving Scholarship Awards**

**12 Young “Unsung Heroes” Special Recognition  
for Community Service and Other Activities**

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa  
Second Floor Convention Center  
3800 S. Virginia Street— Reno, Nevada

RSVP by Friday, May 11, 2018 to  
sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

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