



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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September 2018

www.sitmnv.org

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Calendar

- Sept. 20 – Beads of Strength Beading Party
- Sept. 27 – Membership Committee
- Oct. 4 – Candidates Forum. Joint Meeting with Reno South Rotary
- Oct. 9 – Board meeting, President Jeanne’s Home
- Oct. 11 – Business Meeting, Atlantis
- Oct. 13 – District 5 Fall Meeting, South Lake Tahoe
- Oct. 18 – Public Awareness
- Oct. 25 – SITM 40th Anniversary Celebration

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Second Floor Convention Center
\$22 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.



www.sitmnv.org

As Summer Exits the Pace Picks Up for Fall

September and the crisp morning air at 7 a.m. when I’m walking the trails of Caughlin, signals the weather starting to feel like Fall. Even some of the trees have already popped with their vibrant reds and oranges. Fall also ushers in shorter days as translated by the darkness of evening arriving sooner. A sure sign Daylight Savings Time is coming to an end and the holiday season will be upon us before we know it.

Everywhere the pace is picking up, and so are SITM activities. October 2nd is the Hospitality’s Committee’s Social at Montreux Country Club. We will be celebrating three member’s recent weddings. Congratulations to Diana, Melissa, and Valerie! Members and spouses are invited. Appetizers will be hosted. It promises to be an evening of celebration and socializing.

You do not want to miss the October 4th luncheon. The Community Outreach

Committee is hosting, in conjunction with the Reno South Rotary Club, a Candidate’s Forum. Come and discover where the candidates stand on the issues, so you will be an informed voter come November.



Saturday, October 13th, several of us will be traveling to South Lake Tahoe for the District 5 Meeting, hosted by SI/Tahoe Sierra and SI/South Lake Tahoe. It is apparent from the agenda our hosts have planned an educational and informative event. Registration is \$39.00 and the deadline is October 3. Carpooling is an option if you need a ride. It’s first come, first served for a seat in my Rav 4!

Yours in Soroptimism,
President Jeanne

Come meet the Candidates October 4



Here’s your chance to become informed about the local candidates seeking election November 6. SITM is teaming up with Reno

South Rotary to host a Candidate’s Forum on October 4. You’ll want to be here and bring a guest. Remember reservations for guests are due by end-of-day Monday, October 1.

Register Now for the District 5 Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 13, 2018 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Hosted by SI/Tahoe Sierra and SI/South Lake Tahoe

Beach Retreat and Lodge at Tahoe
3411 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Cost: \$39 for continental breakfast and lunch. Reservation Deadline October 3



See President Jeanne for more information
and reservation forms.

Convention Delegate's Report

An Adventurous and Informative Convention in Japan

The following are excerpts from President Jeanne Naccarato's Delegates Report presented at the September 6 SITM meeting. President Jeanne, along with Anna McArdle, Kay Dunham, Penney Leezy and Sarah Carrasco all attended the 45th Biennial Convention of Soroptimist International of the Americas in Yokohama, Japan, July 30 through August 2

First let me say, getting to the convention was our introduction to our Japan adventure. Our flight out of Reno was canceled so we missed our connecting flight out of San Francisco and waited until evening to catch a flight to of all places, Hong Kong. There were no flights into Haneda, Japan, so we flew the extra five hours to Hong Kong and waited another six hours for a flight back to Japan. If they could've issued Anna McArdle and I parachutes I think it would've been cool to parachute over Japan and save ourselves almost 20 hours of flight and airport time.



President Jeanne with her voting card as an official delegate to the SIA 45th Biennial Conventions.

The convention opened at noon on Monday with registration, the Soroptimist stores, and exhibits. We ran into all kinds of Soroptimists we knew from the Sierra Nevada Region and made some new friends from around the world. I suppose our first clue of things to come should have been how unorganized the registration process was, and that they ran out of ribbons for First Time Attendees for our badges.



SITM's representatives at the SIA Convention in Yokohama, Japan, from left: SNR Governor-Elect Sarah Carrasco, Penney Leezy, President Jeanne Naccarato, Anna McArdle and Kay Dunham.

That was followed by a "First Time Attendees Orientation" and learning how to use the translation

devices, because the presentation was in Japanese. The National Convention Hall of the Pacifico Yokohama is one of the largest convention halls in Japan. It seats 5000 people. Our convention was a mere 2500.

After orientation it was on to our individual Japanese Cultural Events. Anna went on to learn about Calligraphy, Penny went to the Tea Ceremony, and Sarah, Kay and I attended the kimono activity.

Monday evening was the "Writing Our Wishes Reception". We were supposed to come in and write our wish for women on a tag and tie it to one of the Making Our Wishes trees. The room was crowded, noisy, and we were unable to reach a tree, or the hors d'oeuvre table. We also found it interesting that during SIA President Dawn Marie's welcome and welcome to the other SIA leaders and dignitaries, there was nothing but chatter going on in the room, and again mostly from the Asians.

Anna, Kay, Sarah and I eventually left disgusted and hungry. Penney stayed behind as the smart one. She had managed to position herself upfront and got to see the entertainment and the other SIA leaders as she tried to ignore the background conversations going on. We met up later and enjoyed a nice, quiet Italian dinner.

On **Tuesday**, once again President Dawn Marie took the stage to welcome us all to convention and tell us about her theme: Stars, Dreams, and Wishes in that "We All Look At The Same Sky". She wanted to share with us her vision of the convention as a time to **renew** our commitment to the work we must **still do** on behalf of women and girls, **revitalize and strengthen** our knowledge and skills with new information, and **refresh** our relationships with both long-time and brand new friends.



SIA President Dawn Marie Lemonds.

Also welcoming us was Immediate Past SIA President Rosemary Reid Who reminded us that Yokohama is the "City of Dreams". She mentioned that SIA is 75,000 strong worldwide. President-Elect Elizabeth de Geronimo also spoke briefly. She encouraged us to always be inspirational, encouraging, and influential in all our interactions. An invitation to Soroptimist International 2019 convention in Kuala Lumpur, was also included. After lunch we attended workshops where only two were offered in English. I attended the Dream It. Be It program and we broke into groups to discuss how we got started,

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feedback from the girls, possible collaboration with other organizations, and the curriculum. Of course, I had to mention our Dream It. Be It. program which consists of a STEM program in an elementary school designed to build **confidence** and **expertise** in the areas of science, engineering, technology, and math for elementary girls.

The **General Governance** discussion session followed with a presentation of the four tasks assigned to the SIA Task Force for the next 3-4 years.

First task is around configuration of the electoral areas, of which there are 13 and the need to change some combined areas based on language, cultural, ethnic, and economic circumstances; number of clubs and members; geographic areas; and national boundaries.

Second task is to Review and Recommend the configuration of the Electoral Areas considering 13 or fewer, and areas of the federation that are experiencing growth in clubs and members.

Third task is to Review and Recommend whether all clubs should be voting for all board members, rather than just the clubs in their electoral area. A **non-binding straw vote** of the Delegates was taken on this issue after discussion and it resulted in 60% No, 34% Yes, and around 5% undecided. The Board/Task Force will take the discussion and straw poll into consideration in their Review and Recommendation.

The **4th task will be to Review and Recommend** whether and how the Secretary/Treasurer should serve a two year term and whether to establish an audit committee.

Electronic Voting was another topic.

The SIA Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt online voting in February 2020. The reasoning included low participation in voting, mailed votes arriving after due dates, the cost of sending out multiple mailings, continuing to extend the due dates, and it appeared more environmentally friendly and a best practice to do it online.

Timeline;

- March 2019 more information will be sent out;
- October 2019 practice vote will be held;
- February 2020 first official ballot and voting on-line.

Tuesday Night was the Laurel Society Celebration with a 60's theme. Both Sarah Carrasco and Anna Mc Ardle each paid \$1,000 to join the Laurel Society. President

Jeanne, Kay and Penney were already members. It was a grand time. It was also the Region Night Out arranged by President Lane's son, Scott, who lives and works in Tokyo. He escorted Sierra Nevada Region members and husbands to a dining experience at a Japanese restaurant.

On **Wednesday** was the Reach for the Stars speaker Fumiko Hayashi, (mayor of Yokohama) and the Our Shining Stars Recognition banquet with the famous Noh Theater produced by Japan's Living National Treasure, Minoru Umewaka.



Attending the Laurel Society celebration with a "60's theme" from left is: Anna McArdle, Kay Dunham and President Jeanne Naccarato.

I enjoyed the mayor's sharing this day more than anything. She was a remarkable woman with a remarkable story to tell. She was raised by a single mom without any family help. The amazing thing, as she explained it, was that her mother never complained. Therefore, Fumiko grew up thinking her life circumstances were nothing to complain about. Her mom has

since passed away but would never have imagined how successful her daughter has become.

After cleaning offices, Fumiko went on to work for Honda sales and honed her skills based on what she knew as a woman, everyone is important in a company and hospitality with genuine compassion and gratefulness are essential. After successful runs as CEO of BMW Tokyo, Chair and CEO of Daiei Inc. and COO of Nissan Motors, her daughter encouraged her to run for office, and she's been mayor of Yokohama since 2009.

During the Wednesday evening Recognition Banquet, the only time the room was quiet was during the performance by the National Treasure. Again, the room was full of talking and walking around, all during President Dawn Marie's farewell speech and officer installation.

Thursday was only three hours covering more awards, Laurel Society Recognition, Club Giving Recognition, and

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Members of the Sierra Nevada Region attending the SIA Convention in Yokohama, Japan.

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the Dragon Dance that was actually the Lion Dance as the Dragon ended up in Shanghai instead of Japan.

Key Learnings

- If Soroptimists want to be known in the community or the world, we need a brand. Currently, that brand is our Dream Programs and we need to consider adjusting our programs to include these identifiers.
- Many of the Asian clubs have no fund raisers and simply write generous checks for everything. That is partially because the majority of their membership is very well off. I didn't encounter any teachers among their members.
- Our focus remains Economic Empowerment of women as the key to progress. Think Sustainable Economics.
- Consider partnering with other programs in the area to increase the impact of an event.
- Technology integration will increase public awareness to our advantage. Continue with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and local TV and radio, newspapers.



Modeling their kimonos at the September 6 meeting were Kay Dunham and President Jeanne Naccarato

Getting to Know You



Cash Grand Prize

\$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25

Drawing to be held on
Thursday, November 15th, 2018
 12:30 p.m.

Make checks payable to SITM
 Winner need not be present to win





Vice President-Membership Chris Fegert and Vice President -Program Dot Watt conducted the August 23 meeting with an exercise on getting to know SITM's committees and members. Each member had to complete a matrix of questions. Those with the most correct answers won a sweet treat for their efforts.



The "winningest" members with correct answers were, from left: VP-Program Dot Watts, Margie Hermanson, Valerie Hahn, Doris Phelps, Vicki Schultz, Annette Friedlander, Linda Walker, Pam Robinson, Patte Robnett and VP-Membership Chris Fegert.

Member Feature -- Connie Steinheimer**A Nearly Three Decade Legacy of Soroptimist Service**

She's known as "Judge Connie"; the "Garage Sale Queen" and a "seasoned Soroptimist". She's also a wife, mother, community and legal volunteer and advocate, a second-generation Renoite, with family in Nevada since the mid-1800's. She is Connie Steinheimer.

Connie grew up in Reno with an older brother. She is the daughter of a mining engineer and a school teacher. Her father grew up in what today is downtown Reno in a small house on Flint Street, which Connie has used as an office off-and-on throughout her legal career. Her mother was from Utah. Both parents graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno but didn't meet until each was working in Pioche, Nevada.

Connie attended local schools and graduated from UNR with Social Psychology and Theater majors. She spent her college years working at Weinstock's, once an upscale clothing and department store anchored in the now defunct Park Lane Mall.

With her new credentials, she went to work as a Washoe County Juvenile Probation Officer for the next three years. "When I entered the courtroom during proceedings they always made me feel like a second class citizen because I wasn't an attorney," she said. "I thought I would "fix" that when I became an attorney."

"It was later when I became an attorney and returned to the courtroom that I realized some men in the legal profession at that time treated all women in the courtroom

that way, whether they were attorneys or not," she recalled. "I worked hard through the years to change that behavior."



Connie and Jeff at their cabin at Lake Tahoe.

She attended Willamette University Law School in Salem, Oregon. That's where she met the man she would marry, Jeff Ostome! He was an aspiring attorney himself, having grown up in Oregon. Connie says Jeff agreed that they would make their home in Reno.

There were few women in the legal profession in Nevada at the time. She served as a Washoe County Deputy District Attorney and

worked in private practice.

That experience became the introduction to a circle of women professionals who became friends and led to her eventually joining Soroptimist. She met Shirley George, who was a lead fraud investigator for the Washoe County District Attorney's Office. She met Deborah Agosti, who was one of two women to become the first female District Court Judges in Washoe County, and Deborah was later elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. She met Dorothy-Nash Holmes, who won election as Washoe County's District Attorney, and now serves as a Reno Municipal Court Judge.

Besides being high-achieving women

in the legal field, they also had one thing in common. They were all members of SITM.

Connie remarked, "In those days women supported other women, unconditionally, nonjudgmentally. They were just very supportive of seeing each other succeed in their professions and lives," Connie remarked. "Shirley invited me to several SITM meetings and events and urged me to join." Connie wasn't quite ready, but in 1991 she joined SITM with Jeanne Baxter as her sponsor.

"I've always been thankful to be a Soroptimist. I've treasured my time with SITM." Connie said. "What impressed me from the start was that it wasn't about just one thing. Our projects touch many and in many areas of the community."

In 1992 she successfully ran for judge in the Second Judicial District Court and has been re-elected four times, serving as Chief Judge from 2008-2012.



Jocelyn and Caitlyn pose with the bronze statue "Fearless Girl" while on a family vacation to New York City.

She and Jeff have been married 40 years and are the proud parents of two daughters. Seasoned Soroptimists have watched the girls grow up. Caitlyn, 36, is the Acting Director of Strategic Communications for

FEMA in Washington, D.C. Jocelyn, 29, just graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene and is a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Larry Hicks.

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Soroptimists know Jeff as “Mr. Garage Sale,” always setting up the tables and racks prior to SITM’s 40 garage sales at the Ostomel/Steinheimer home for 20-years. Over the years Jeff has provided legal counsel for public, private and nonprofit organizations. He has owned his own specialty construction company, provided construction management services and private fiduciary services for small trusts.

In what time was left over in any given day, Connie and Jeff were ardent PTA parents for years at Jesse Beck Elementary, Swope Middle School and Reno High School (the girls are 7 years apart), plus each has participated in a long list of community boards, professional, legal and judiciary councils.

Connie has been a champion and continual supporter of SITM’s Nepal Project, which was begun at the end of Connie’s term as President (1999-2000) and the beginning of Monica’s term as President (2000-2001).

It’s a privilege for SITM to have such a dedicated and seasoned member like Connie.



YOU COULD WIN

this beautiful hand-crafted quilt for just \$5

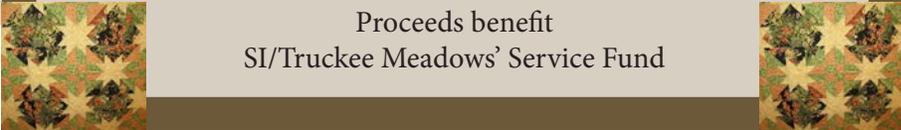
SI/Truckee Meadows is offering you a chance to take home this gorgeous treasure by Jan Bogikes



Winning ticket will be drawn November 15th

Tickets are only \$5 each, or 5 for \$20

Proceeds benefit
SI/Truckee Meadows’ Service Fund





Hospitality Committee Makes Plans

SITM’s Hospitality Committee has met to plan and dream up some fun activities for members during the year. At a recent meeting, in the front row from left: Eve Johnson, Jo Ann Lessley, Co-Coordinator Niki Ewing, Ana Nadimi and Diana DeMatei. Back row from left: Margie Hermanson, Co-Coordinator Jean Neddenriep and Scarlet Ewy.

September Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

SITM Set to Celebrate its Chartering on October 25

Preparations are being made for SITM's 40th Anniversary Celebration at the October 25 meeting and you don't want to miss what the Hospitality Committee has planned for the occasions. The program will include a pictorial history of some of our service projects, fundraising pursuits and special occasions.

The Board recommended and the membership approved a budget line item of \$1,000 to cover the cost of a commemorative 40th pin and other expenses.

Mark this date and bring a friend to lunch.

Plan to Attend the District 5 Meeting on October 13

District 5 Director Sue Chambers has a fun and informative District Meeting planned for us on October 13 at the new Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe. The meeting will last from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$39 for a continental breakfast and lunch. Cost for first time attendees is covered by the club. Deadline for registration is October 3. See President Jeanne for a copy of the agenda and reservation information. Let's plan to carpool!

New Co-Coordinators and Survey Results

Kudos and thank yous to Darlene DeLancey who stepped up to replace Barbara Atwell as Co-Coordinator of the Fundraising Committee when Barbara Atwell had to take a leave of absence. Not long after, Linda Walker agreed to join Darlene in the Co-Coordinator position. Both ladies have jumped right in and are working hard to coordinate the committee and fundraising pursuits.

The results from the Fundraising Survey conducted at the August 2 meeting, along with surveys submitted by members online, were presented at the September Business Meeting. If you would like a copy, please see Co-Coordinators Darlene and Linda. The committee will be reviewing the results and if you submitted suggestions, they will be contacting you. Don't be shy; contact the committee if you have interesting fundraising ideas or contacts.

Nepal Pledge Drive Coming in March

On a motion from the IGU Committee, the membership approved the committee to hold its annual Nepal Pledge Drive to raise funds for girls' scholarships, dormitory repair and the micro-lending program in Thulipokhari, Nepal. The Committee will present its annual update

and pledge drive on March 21.

Tax Preparer Named for 2017-18 Taxes

Once again Beverly Perkins, CPA, has agreed to take on the task of auditing and reconciling SITM's books, as well as preparing the club's tax return for the IRS. Thank you Bev for taking on this onerous task for this and many previous years.

Nominations for SIA Director and Fundraising Council

It is the Sierra Nevada Region's "turn" to nominate members to stand for election to the office of SIA Board Director from Electoral Area 10. SNR shares the electoral area with Sierra Pacific and Founder Regions. SITM nominated two potential candidates for nomination, Immediate Past Governor Vicki Watson and Past Governor Jackie DeMartini (2014-2016). For the SIA Fundraising Council, the members nominated Monica House. The SIA Nominating Committee will be contacting these members to ascertain their willingness to stand for office.

August Happy Dollars Benefit R.A.V.E.

August Happy Dollars totaled \$442 for R.A.V.E (Respite and Volunteer Experiences) Family Foundation. The September Happy Dollars are designated for Bristlecone Family Resources.



Celebrating their September birthday were Bev Perkins, Eileen Fuller and Melissa Kreck.

Save the Date: October 25 to Celebrate SITM

You won't want to miss the October 25th meeting when we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Chartering of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows. Plan to be there and bring a guest.



Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows
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Contributing to this issue
 Jo Ann Roberts
 Jeanne Naccarato
 Connie Steinheimer

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 President Jeanne Naccarato's home

SITM Board 2017-18

President
 Jeanne Naccarato
 President – Elect
 Penney Leezy
 VP/Program
 Dot Watts
 VP/Membership
 Chris Fegert
 Secretary
 Linda Walker

Treasurer/General Fund
 Pam Robinson
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Lynne Catrow
 Director
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 Delegate
 Amanda Strong
 Parliamentarian
 Margie Hermanson



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:
 Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org
 Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
 Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . .

Soroptimist Social Set for October 2 at Montreux Country Club

The Hospitality Committee is hosting a Soroptimist Social on Tuesday, October 2 at Montreux Country Club beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will be celebrating the recent weddings of Melissa Kreck, Diana De Matei and Valerie Hahn. Spouses, partners and significant others are welcome for an evening of celebration and socializing. Appetizers will be hosted.

Montreux Country Club
 18077 Bordeaux Drive
 (off the Mt. Rose Highway)
 Reno



Seasoned Soroptimist Diana Dillon and her long-time Soroptimister Jeff De Matei were married in an afternoon ceremony on August 24 at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Reno. Congratulations Diana and Jeff.