

# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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

## Reflections as we Celebrate the Seasons

The holidays are rushing in like a wild winter storm sweeping across the Sierra. And, like a storm coming to our draught-weary region, the holidays are intensely welcome - but they also make us feel a little edgy. Time gets swallowed up, family dynamics can be challenging and, for some, there's the emptiness that comes when loved ones are far away. And yet the lights, the songs, the traditions, the anticipation – they usually end up seducing us into a sense of well-being.

As Soroptimists, we delight in supporting others during the holidays – from the Salvation Army Senior Gift Delivery to Libby Booth's Christmas Family Event to sharing with our own SITM members where even a simple "like" on Facebook can

make a difference. We bake, we sew, we donate. We are liberal with Happy Dollars, which in December benefit Soroptimist International and Federation projects for education and leadership.

And then, like that winter storm, the tumultuous time between Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas is behind us and it's time to move on. For me, New Year's is always a time of reflection and renewal. One of my favorite December events, the winter solstice, promises that the days are now getting longer again and Spring is just around the corner. Even in the darkest of times I have found strength and optimism at the year's end, and I always look forward to the symbolic closing of one door so another one can open.

But for now the season is upon us. Let's



See what Marilyn Pearson and Pam Sutton are up to at the Holiday Boutique, page 3.

all enjoy the energy, be joyful for what we have, and be kind.

On a sad note, longtime SITM member Carrie Porter passed away on December 6. She had more energy packed into a tiny body than anyone I've ever known. Her enthusiasm and dedication to women and women's history in Nevada has made us all richer. For more about Carrie please see page 9.

President Pam Sutton



The Friday sorting crew at the Salvation Army, from left: Ana Nadimi, Jan Veys, Niki Champ, Niki's friend Jenny, Diana's friend Jeff DeMatei, Liza Chapin, Bev Perkins, Teresa Mentzer, Diana Dillon and Paula Ringkob. Kneeling is Eileen Fuller. See pages 5 & 6 for story and photos.

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## Volunteering Comes Naturally to Member Harmony Hobbs

Member Profile by Pam Robinson

Harmony joined SITM just this year and jumped right in to work four days at the Air Races. She says it was a great time, especially knowing how much money we raise out there for our projects. In addition to belonging to SITM, Harmony is involved in a tremendous amount of volunteer work through her employer, United Parcel Service (UPS). Her company brings UPS trucks full of gently used donated clothing to Libby Booth twice a year. UPS also assists the Boys and Girls Club and the Food Bank. In the past UPS has



*Family photo, left to right: Nephew Kyler (son of Keiara), twin Keiara (at her baby shower), nephew Braxton (son of Brenda), sister Brenda, brother Travis, niece Austynn and Harmony.*

handled the logistics of delivering food for the Evelyn Mount Community project as well.

Her employment with UPS began while she was still in high school in Oregon. She worked there during Christmas break of her senior year and the following summer. While she was going to school, she continued at UPS and has received numerous promotions over the years. Harmony has also worked in several UPS

locations for various reasons - Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Anaheim - following her transfer to the Sparks facility where she is the Package Operations Supervisor.

Harmony is the oldest of four and has an identical twin sister, Keiara, a brother, Travis, and another sister, Brenda. She is very close to her siblings and their children and spoils her nieces and nephews! She was born in Pasadena, CA. Her grandfather, Ralph Rowe, was a notable stuntman in Hollywood and appeared in many westerns, including Bonanza. The family has lots of memorabilia from his time there as well as many pictures with famous film stars. He had quite a career!

When she was quite young, her parents bought a working ranch in Roseburg, Oregon where she grew up. She and her family had lots of chores with their horses, cows, sheep and other livestock as well as growing alfalfa and wheat. Each of them had their own animals, and although they resented the chores when they were teenagers, she looks back fondly at the times when she had her own animals and lived on the ranch.

In addition to the chores at home, Harmony was very active in sports at school, particularly in basketball, softball, and track. History and world studies were her favorite subjects in school. She and her husband, Scott, whom she met at UPS and who also works there, have been together 12 years and married 7 years. They have three dogs and love to spend time out of doors and at their cabin at Lake Almanor where they have a ski boat.

Harmony heard about SITM from President-Elect Vivian Ruiz, whose husband worked with her. Sounds like UPS has played a big part in her life, and now she'll have all the connections in SITM. Harmony is a wonderful new member, and we are excited to get to know her better!

### Calendar

- December 18 – Holiday Social, Hospitality Committee
- December 25 – DARK – Merry Christmas
- January 1 – DARK – Happy New Year
- January 8 -- Andrea Gregg, Executive Director of High Sierra Area Health Education Center
- January 13 – SITM Board Meeting, Disability Resources
- January 15 – Business Meeting, Atlantis

You can follow our weekly activities on:



*Harmony with husband Scott Hobbs.*

## SITM Celebrates Members' Talents at the Holiday Boutique

Seven talented SITM members offered their handmade art and various craft items for sale at the annual Holiday Boutique at the November 20 meeting. Eileen Fuller showed off her handmade holiday cards and ornaments; Penney Leezy offered her custom-made jewelry; Jan Veys sold unique plates she makes, often from estate sale items; Bev Perkins offered her hand-crocheted Christmas items; Margie Hermanson brought her famous cookies for sale; President Pam presented her uniquely crafted blown glass jewelry and decorations; Barbara Atwell offered a large selection of hand sewn runners, blankets and more. Members had a good time shopping and discussing the crafts-womanship in each item.



Jan Veys and Penney Leezy



Georgia Baker-Flambures and Millie Mitchell, with Jan Veys and her beautiful plates.



Eileen Fuller and Becky Moody discuss Eileen's cute cork reindeer.



From left, Enid Oliver, Wanda Beaman (Cindy's Mom) and Cindy Burk show off some of Bev Perkins handiwork.



From left, Barbara Atwell, Mich Glazier and Kay Dunham examine Barbara's beautiful handiwork.

## Recap of Voting on SIA Proposed Bylaw Amendments

By Faye I. Andersen

At the Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention, held in July in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, delegates voted their recommendations on seven proposed amendments to the SIA Bylaws, along with two resolutions. At the December Business Meeting, SITM members considered the amendments and resolutions and voted the following:

### Proposed Amendments 1, 2 and 3

The first three Bylaw Amendments can be considered "housekeeping" with respect to aligning the Federation Bylaws with amendments made to the Soroptimist International Constitution and other actions adopted by the SIA Board in 2013. SITM members voted to approve Amendments numbers 1, 2 and 3.

The first amendment included updating the Objects of SIA to match the fine-tuned wording of the SIA Strategic Plan vision and mission adopted by the SIA Board of Directors in 2013.

The second amendment allows SIA to define its own membership including the elimination of member classifications, with the rationale that an occupation or lack thereof is not a necessary consideration for membership.

The third removes the eligibility, type and classification of club members from the hands of Soroptimist International and places it in the hands of Soroptimist International of the Americas. This amendment will limit the types of members to two types: Regular Members and Life Members. Eliminated will be the categories of Retired/Unemployed and Embarking Members.

### Proposed Amendment 4

SITM members voted to deny Amendment number 4, to change the method of selecting members of the Fundraising Council from elected by the members to appointed by the SIA Board. The board would also appoint the Chair of the Fundraising Council, who would serve as an advisor to the board, instead of an elected and voting member of the board.

### Proposed Amendment 5

SITM members voted to approve Proposed Amendment number 5 which would limit the personal liability of the SIA Executive Director and indemnify the directors, employees and agents of SIA as provided by the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law (where SIA is incorporated).

### Proposed Amendment 6 (to increase Federation dues)

Members voted to deny both parts of Proposed Amendment number 6 which would increase SIA member annual dues over three years from their current \$52 as proposed:

2015-16 -- \$68

2016-2017 -- \$70;

2017-18 -- \$72

The proposal also includes a Cost of Living Adjustment, beginning in 2018-2019, allowing the SIA Board of Directors to establish the annual dues, based on the expenses and projections.

### Resolution #1: Rescind resolution 2004:4 Corruption.

Members voted to rescind the Resolution on Corruption, originally passed in 1954 as outdated, with many provisions already covered by other resolutions.

### Resolution 2: Substituted a new resolution

Members voted to support this resolution to change the program name from the Women's Opportunity Award, and replace it with the renamed and retooled program, Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women.

### Members Crochet Afghans for Womens' Shelter



Members gathered in November at Diana Dillon's office for crocheting lessons and camaraderie in making afghans for the Reno Women's Shelter. Top is Rikki Hensley-Ricker and Patti Dory. Bottom are Kathy Martin, Kay Dunham, Bev Perkins and Joan Hughes. Last year, members crocheted 75 afghans for women and families at the shelter.

# Members Brighten Seniors' Holiday with Gift Deliveries



*Dor Watts, Marilyn Pearson and Joan Hughes were "photobombed" by Tom Clark (Jennifer Crowe's husband) as they get instructions for deliveries.*

Fourteen teams, representing 40 Soroptimist members, family and friends showed up Saturday morning to deliver gifts to 185 seniors in four complexes in Reno. Twenty-six enjoyed a pre-delivery breakfast at Nothing To It Cooking School and Restaurant. And it all began the day before, with 11 members and friends showing up to sort and package the gifts in convenient bundles for delivery. Thank you to Diana Dillon and Niki Champ for organizing our efforts and to everyone who sorted, packaged and delivered the gifts. You made many senior citizens happy this Christmas.



*Rikki Hensley-Ricker, her husband Jeff, son Caleb and daughter Madeline dishing up breakfast.*



*Making a list and checking it twice during the sorting process is, from left, Ana Nadimi, Bev Perkins, Diana Dillon (seated), Eileen Fuller and Teresa Mentzer.*



*Pam Robinson advocating to "Be Naughty" this season.*



*Sorting co-coordinator Niki Champ, right, and her friend Jenny.*



*President-Elect Vivian Ruiz and daughter Cheyenne.*





Becky Moody signs out gift cards from Captain Heather of the Salvation Army. Looking on are Becky's co-worker Liz and her son Ryan.



Valerie Sumersille-Hahn with daughter Savannah are ready to head out.



Salvation Army Captain Heather with Liza Chapin and Chris Fegert at check-out.



Eileen Fuller with her team of Jackson Rosol, a happy senior, Stephanie and Maxwell Rosol during gift delivery.



Jennifer Burnitt with husband Michael.



Connie Steinheimer, daughter Jocelyn and Vicki Schultz strategizing their delivery route.

## December Happy Dollars to be Split Between Club Grants and See Solar, Cook Solar

*Reprinted in part from soroptimist.org*

Each year, on December 10, the Soroptimist International President invites all Soroptimists to join her in making a personal sacrifice and donating money to be used to benefit Soroptimist International projects for education and leadership.

For 2013-2015, SI President Ann Garvie, SI board and the SI program team have provided flexibility through the December 10th Appeal for the Federations to support the SI theme, Educate to Lead, in the best ways for the federation.

For the 2014 December 10th Appeal Soroptimist International of the Americas Federation will continue to designate funds to support club projects focused on education and leadership through the Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls.

SI President Ann Garvie has a special interest in solar cooker and lighting projects. The See Solar, Cook Solar Appeal will support Soroptimist projects all over the world that educate women about renewable energy and empower and enable opportunities for them, by

providing solar lanterns and cookers. The first two projects to benefit will be Solar Lanterns for Schoolgirls in Zambia and Solar Cookers for women in Fiji.

SITM members voted to split the money collected for December Happy Dollars, along with a \$250 designated budget donation between the SI and SIA projects.



*Solar lanterns light the way for schoolgirls in Zambia.*

## SI/Puné Metro East Recognized for “Pick of the Projects”



November 19 was World Toilet Day, designed to draw attention to the lack of sanitation and security for women and girls globally.

Soroptimist International featured club projects around the world focusing on this plight of women and girls. SITM's Friendship Link Club, Soroptimist International of Puné Metro East, India, was one of the “Pick of the Projects” addressing this issue in their Medical Outreach program.

Proper toilet facilities are an important service to a community, and installation often sees a reduction in medical problems. Soroptimists in India have supported the development of a medical center that provides for the villages of Phulgaon and Tulapur for the last 10 years.

Through this support the villages have become more aware of the importance of health, and by allowing toilets to be built they have recognized the importance of the women in the villages and their needs. As a consequence, women are safer and have access to better hygiene and rates of stomach ailments have reduced.

“Without access to latrines, many women and girls become ‘prisoners of daylight’, daring to relieve themselves only under the cover of darkness. Night-time trips to fields or roadsides, however, can put them at risk of physical attack and sexual violence” Read more here at Unicef.com.

*Reprinted in part from SoroptimistInternational.org.*

## December Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

Don't miss SITM's annual holiday celebration at the December 18 regular meeting. Please bring a wrapped candle for the gift exchange among members.

### SIA Bylaw Amendments Debated and Voted

At the Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention, held in July in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, delegates voted their recommendations on seven proposed amendments to the SIA Bylaws, along with two resolutions. At the December Business Meeting, SITM members considered the amendments and resolutions and voted. For more explanation and results of the vote, see page 4.

### Happy Dollar Designations

A total of \$192.15 was raised during November Happy Dollars and donated to the Crisis Call Center. December Happy Dollars will be split between the Soroptimist International President's Appeal project, See Solar, Cook Solar and Soroptimist International of the Americas club grants. See page 7 for more information.

### Tax Return Complete and Mailed

SITM's 2014 tax return has been completed, signed by President Pam and mailed to the IRS. Even though Soroptimist is a nonprofit organization, we must still file an annual tax return. Thank you Bev Perkins, for your work on this annual task.

### Membership Update

The Board approved a leave of absence for Jean Neddenriep through January for health reasons. Continuing on leave through January 8 is Lynne Catrow for work reasons. Life member Elsie Doser has moved to Golden, Colorado. Her new address is 24122 Jerome Court, Golden, CO 80401. Elsie intends to remain a member of SITM, as she plans to return to Reno frequently.



*Liz Ortiz from Access to Healthcare Network spoke at the November 6 meeting. She outlined the history of the network, its mission and services, as well as plans to provide healthcare in the future.*



*Rose Catron, President and CEO of Crisis Call Center speaks about her organization at the November 6 meeting. Crisis Call Center is the recipient of the November Happy Dollars.*



*The Watts family visiting our November 20 meeting. Dot Watts with daughter Valerie, husband Vern, and son Scott.*

## Life Member Carrie Porter Passes

By President Pam Sutton

Longtime member of SITM, Carrie Porter, died on December 6, 2014. She joined SITM in 1986, where, at Faye Andersen's request, she established the archives for SITM and in 1994, the archives for the Sierra Nevada Region. She received the Ceec Abrahams award for

exceptional service to Soroptimist and to the community in 1994 and remained a Life Member of our club.



SITM members will recall Carrie as very feisty, and passionate about recording the history of powerful Nevada women. She was a founding member of the Nevada Women's History Project and was the sole volunteer/employee of

the organization for many years. She produced their northern Nevada newsletter and published many research works on historical Nevada women. She focused on two, Sarah Winnemucca and Helen J. Stewart.

She organized and became co-chairman of the State Sarah Winnemucca Statue Committee, which placed a bronze statue of Sarah Winnemucca in the National Statuary Hall in the US Capitol in 2005. She also helped coordinate and raised funds for a statue of Helen J. Stewart, who was a rancher and proponent of women's rights in the early 1900s in Las Vegas. To raise funds for these projects Carrie portrayed Helen J. Stewart in Chautauqua events throughout the state in an authentic costume made just for her.

Carrie owned and managed Townley-Porter Associates, a records management consulting firm specializing in organizing government and private corporation records. In her business she used her archivist skills as a records analyst and records administrator. She also used these skills to compose a thorough history of the Trinity Episcopal Church where she served as a Eucharist Minister.

She and her second husband, Keith Porter, were involved in the Scottish Rite. She served as chief of the Nevada Society of Scottish Clans in 1994 & 1995 and was awarded the Silver Thistle "Scot of the Year" in 2004. Her clan was MacFarlane.

Carrie was born in Texas in 1937. She attended North Texas Women's University until her first marriage, to

J. M. Townley. They had three children, Cynthia Ewes, John Mark Townley (J.T.) and Barbara Townley Codega. They moved to Las Vegas in 1963 where Carrie completed her education. She earned a bachelor's degree in history (with a minor in mathematics) and master's degree in archeology and history from Nevada Southern College (now UNLV). In Las Vegas she was a substitute history teacher (7th and 8th grade) and also taught math at Gibson Junior High School where she prepared lesson plans and instructions still in use today. Jo Ann Roberts recalls that when Carrie would speak at SITM meetings she wouldn't use a mic –usually prefacing her remarks with something like "I don't need the mic, I will use my 7th. grade teacher voice".

After many years of marriage John and Carrie agreed to a divorce. She later married Keith Porter in 1985. As many Soroptimists may recall Carrie and Keith were great at entertaining people at their home in Hidden Valley. For many years, they hosted an open house on New Year's Day which they called Texas New Year's Celebration. It featured baked ham and black eyed peas. The black eyed peas are a tradition in the south and eating them on New Year's Day is said to bring good luck for the year. You had to have at least a taste of them, according to Carrie. It was a day filled with food, drink and good company.

Carrie lost her husband Keith in 2004 and her daughter Barbara in 2012. She later moved with her daughter's family to Rancho Cucamonga, California, in 2013.

Funeral or memorial arrangements and designation of any donations are pending the return of her son, who is out of the country.





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 Pam Robinson  
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**Also contributing to this issue**  
 Jo Ann Roberts      Liza Chapen  
 Pam Sutton          Eileen Fuller  
 Patty Downs        Harmony Hobbs  
 Niki Ewing          Diana Dillon

SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Resort & Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations [www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com](mailto:www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com). no later than 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$17.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.



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 . . .

## Mark Your Calendars Now for January 8 Special Speaker Andrea Gregg

By Doris Phelps

The first meeting of 2015 is presented by the Health Committee. Our special program features Andrea Gregg, Executive Director of High Sierra AHEC (Area Health Education Center) in Reno.

High Sierra AHEC is located within UNR and was established locally in 2002 to reach the medically underserved rural and urban areas of Northwestern Nevada. Day to day operations include health care career exploration programs, continuing education for health professionals and community health and wellness advocacy.

The Center's vision is to facilitate the improvement of health care services delivery systems in Carson, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Storey and Washoe Counties. Partners include UNR, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners, Nevada Hospital Association, Global Online Advanced Learning and local hospitals and schools.

The National AHEC System was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health care professional workforce committed to underserved populations. Plan to attend and bring your guests to this informative meeting.

We know you will enjoy learning about this program as much as the Health Committee members did in researching this topic! Thank you, Cindy Burk, for making these arrangements. See [www.highsierraahcec.org](http://www.highsierraahcec.org) to learn more.

