

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

President's Message



It is hard to believe it is the middle of February already but as most of you know, I love hearts and chocolate so what better holiday than Valentine's Day to celebrate the two!!

Our committees are working so hard this club year and they continue to be bright stars each and every meeting. Your enthusiasm and energy is

refreshing. Thank you so much ladies for making all our meetings enjoyable ones!!

The club earned \$1,135 for our service fund at the Perfect Pairing at Ling and Louies on February 13th. A fun time was had by all who attended. Jennifer Burnitt has found her nitch and thank you Jennifer for all your efforts in organizing these fundraisers as well as inviting your clients, co-workers, and other acquaintances to ensure the success of the event. We had about 38 attendees of which Jennifer invited over half of them.

I encourage you to read the descriptions of the club officers included in this month's newsletter and consider running for a 2013-14 office to support President Elect Margie. Serving on the Board is such a rewarding

experience and I am so thankful for your continued support as your President this club year!!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Making A Difference for Women event on March 9th at the Atlantis. To echo Georgia Baker, we challenge you all to make these women feel comfortable!!

President Becky



Four financial gurus, who happen to be SITM members, formed a financial panel for the January 31st meeting to discuss issues ranging from financial planning, the stock market to accounting services and taxes. From left are: Betsy Dart, Financial Planner for First Wall Street; Monica House, First Vice President – Wealth Management, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; Vicki Schultz, Financial Advisor, Schultz Financial Group Inc.; and Gayle Baxley, CPA. Moderating the panel was Paula Ringkob (below), retired professor of Accounting at TMCC.

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February Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new member Angela Owings, who was inducted at the February Business Meeting. Angela is the Family Shelter Manager for Reno's Homeless Shelter, operated by Volunteers of America. She was sponsored by Doris Phelps.

Proposed Bylaw Change Affects Dues

The second reading and vote of the membership was taken at the February Business Meeting on a proposal from the Finance/Bylaws Committee. Since 2001, club dues have automatically increased by 3% annually, except in the case where Federation or Region dues increased at greater than 3%. The Bylaw change, which was approved by the membership, directs the committee to review the proposed General Fund Budget each spring and then recommend a dues increase/decrease as necessary. In no event should dues increase more than 3% each club year.

Time to Nominate Officers for 2013-14 Club Year

Believe it or not – it's time to nominate members to serve in the positions of officers, directors and delegates for the 2013-14 Club Year. A Nominating Committee has been appointed and will be coordinated by Marilyn Pearson, with members Dot Watts and Doris Phelps. Nomination forms will be distributed at upcoming meetings. A slate of officers will be presented to the board and membership at the March Board/Business meetings. The election of next year's officers will be held at the April 11 Business Meeting.

MADFW Seeking Your Donations and Your Participation

SITM's annual Making a Difference for Women skills training seminar will be held on Saturday, March 9 and the committee needs your donations of good quality work clothing and your participation on the day of the event.

First, the committee is seeking your donation of work appropriate clothing for the women attending the seminar to take as they prepare for job interviews or work. Bring them to the SITM meetings and members of the committee will greet you downstairs near the back door of the Atlantis (Coliseum Way entrance).

On the day of the event, March 9, the committee needs members to attend and work at the event to welcome, escort and sit with the attendees during meal functions and participate in the workshops. Members are asked to pay for their own breakfast and lunch to help hold down the cost of the event. Cost is \$32.

June 1 Set for Next Garage Sale

The IGU Committee has announced the next garage sale will be held Saturday June 1 at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home. Mark on your calendar to come Friday night to help sort and organize the sale for Saturday.

You Can Still Donate Your Toiletries

Do you have some toiletries just sitting in your cupboard, maybe from your most recent trips? Bring them with you to any SITM meeting. Niki Ewing is collecting them for the Good Shepherd Families, who often go without soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other hygiene items. Collections will continue through February.

Happy Dollars for the Food Bank

Members and guests donated \$374 in Happy Dollars in January that were designated for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada's Backpack program to feed kids over the weekend. Happy Dollars for March are designated for the Girl Scouts of the Sierra to send Libby Booth girls to camp.

Membership Notes

There were no requests from members for leaves of absence. However, remaining on leave are Joan Hughes through April 13 for travel; and Mary Mead through May 15 for school.

Calendar

- February 21 – Hospitality Committee – Celebrate the Academy Awards in a very social and *fun gathering!!!*
- February 28 – Education Youth – Violet Richardson Award
- March 2 – District II & III Meeting – Carson City
- March 7 – IGU Committee
- March 9 – Making a Difference for Women Event – Atlantis Hotel & Casino
- March 12 – Board Meeting – 5:30 PM – Dermody Properties, 5500 Equity Ave.
- March 14 – Business Meeting
- March 21 – Recruitment and Retention
- March 28 – Human Rights/Status of Women Committee – Ruby Award Luncheon

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Danielle Matthews is our 2013 WOA Recipient

By Pam Robinson

Danielle Matthews, a single mother of a 5-year old son, was recently awarded the SITM Women's Opportunity Award (WOA). After reviewing numerous applications for this award, the Education Women Committee selected Danielle, a first semester nursing student at Truckee Meadows Community College.

Danielle has been working full time at Willow Springs and raising her son on her own while also going to TMCC and finishing her prerequisites. After her son's father became physically and emotionally abusive early in their relationship, she divorced him and filed for sole custody. She has lived on her own for many years and has worked hard to manage a one-income household and learn to manage her time. At times she has worked not one, but two jobs.

Two years ago, she was a victim of sexual assault and pressed charges against

the perpetrator who is now in prison. She learned that nothing could keep her from attaining her goals and kept going after this horrifying incident. She wants to be an example for her son so he can see that hard work does pay off. Her references commented on her determination and ability to perform many tasks at once. They tell us that Danielle is a dedicated volunteer who works with young children with behavioral health issues as well as helping rape victims and other at-risk populations. Her self reliance and self motivation permeate her personal and college life and she has an almost unbelievably optimistic and sunny disposition.

We are honored to know Danielle and have forwarded her application to Sierra Nevada Region for further WOA award consideration.



Education – Women Committee Co-Coordinator Tracy Peterson, left, presents a plaque, flowers and a check for \$1,000 to SITM's Women's Opportunity Award recipient Danielle Mathews. Danielle is entering her second semester in the nursing program at TMCC. The single mother of a five-year-old son also works full time.

Welcome Angela Owings

Recruitment and Retention Co-Coordinator Valerie Hahn, left, conducts an induction ceremony for new member Angela Owings, center, RGR member Connie Steinheimer and Angela's sponsor Doris Phelps. Angela is the Family Shelter Manager in Reno for Volunteers of America.



An Interview with Member Teresa Mentzer

By Connie Steinheimer

Recently I visited with Teresa Mentzer with a view of sharing more about her with SITM members, something perhaps they didn't already know. I hope you all hear Teresa's "voice" in the responses.

Q: What do you really LOVE? I love having a house full of friends and family during the holidays, impromptu back yard barbeque, spending time with my girlfriends, alone time with my husband and daughter.

Q: Where did you go to school? Any stories you want to share about Catholic School? Queen of the Holy Rosary Church/Grade School was only a block away from where I grew up. I loved walking to school with my sisters and friends. I played on a baseball team at our school and our team won first place even though I was not any good at hitting a ball. I remember my First Holy Communion and Confirmation listening to the Latin spoken by the priests and nuns and I thought it sounded so beautiful. I loved going to Church on a Sunday morning and then going out with my grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins for breakfast. My grade school/church was a big part of my life growing up. Both of my parents were very involved in all the activities at my school.

Q: Did you do anything unusual as a youth; maybe something about your dancing or Grandma? My Paternal Grandmother, Guadalupe Garcia, was in charge of raising funds for the after school program that was held at the Guadalupe Center on the West Side of Kansas City, Mo. I was only 8 or 9 years old when she taught me how to dance the traditional dances of Mexico. My sisters and I, with our cousins, would perform at these fundraising events. Many local Mexican Restaurants would sell their food and a portion of the proceeds would go to the church to help with the after school program. The event became so popular that it would draw thousands of people from all over Kansas City. In fact my Grandmother and several women of the Kansas City area were honored by having their names placed at one of the beautiful fountains in Kansas City.

Q: What are your memories of being a Girl Scout? My mother was my troop leader for many years and every summer we would attend the Girl Scout Camp together. I even remember when us girls almost got kicked out of camp because we snuck out one night and went swimming at a lake that was next to where we were camping. Thank God my mother came to our rescue and convinced the other leaders to let us stay. My mom was pretty cool about things and was always there to help us when we got into a jam. To this very day I don't know how she found the time raising five children and being involved in our school, Girl Scouts and being an activist all at the same time.

Q How long have you and Stan been married? Stan and I have been married for 28 years and we happen to still be friends after all this time. We love doing things

we have never done before like going down the Colorado River in a raft, hiking up a mountain in Yosemite Park, traveling to Yellowstone National Park and exploring what nature has to offer. We take every opportunity when we travel to see the sunrise and sunset in the places we are visiting. My husband is a romantic, when I was pregnant with my daughter and it happen to be Valentine's day, he hired a quarter to sing love songs as I got on the plane to visit my



Stan & Teresa at the Grand Canyon

family in Branson, Mo. On another Valentine's Day, he had a violinist come to my office and play beautiful music which of course made me cry. When I travel alone, he always hides little gifts of love in my suitcase, like a small box of gum, a little tiny teddy bear, a small bag with a little heart in it and small note cards to tell me he will miss me. I suppose I will keep him for another 28 years.

Q: Something you want to share about Kristina? When my daughter Kristina was two or three years of age I would pick her up from day care and she would make me laugh all the way home because of the funny things she would say and the funny faces she would make when she talked. She was very animated with

Teresa Mentzer continued

her face and her hands. At night before we would go to bed I would read to her and then we would stay up late talking, laughing and sharing what happened throughout our day.

Q: What jobs have you held? I worked with my parents at their restaurant from the time I was 12 until I got married at the age of 19. I worked for Sherwin Williams home decorating center in Kansas City and then had an opportunity to come to Reno and work at Sears in their drapery department helping people select window treatments for their home. When leaving Sears I decided to try my hand in selling furniture and I worked at RB furniture until I was lucky enough to land the job with Allstate Insurance. Time goes fast when you are having fun because it has been 30 years since starting my career with Allstate Insurance.

Q: How long have you been a member of SITM? What committees, offices, jobs have you done while a member? I have been a member of SITM since 1996. I have been committee coordinator for Thanks to Youth, Arts and Authors, Retention/Recruitment Committee, Air Race Committee, and sat on the Board for several years.

Q: Any special memories from SITM or members you would like to share? I love working with the SITM members on projects that are so dear to our hearts,

Garage Sales for our Nepal Project, Thanks to Youth Scholarship fundraising event, Air Races are all things we do to raise money so that we can make a difference in someone's lives.

Q: What do you like to do for relaxation? I love to read a good book!

Q: Favorite things about SITM? The friendships and the support system we have for one another and the dedication we all have in making a difference for children and women in our community.



Kristina and Teresa

Don't miss the IGU meeting March 7th -- Bring a Guest

Here is the perfect meeting to bring a guest or two so they know why you save all that junk for our semi-annual garage sales. Dr. Purna Subedi will present a new Power Point program with new pictures from Thulipokari like the one below. Shown is a photo of the girls' dormitory SITM built and supports in Nepal after the renovations we paid for

last year were complete -- new paint and a security wall. But this is only part of the story. Don't forget the meeting on March 7, 2013 at noon. It will be a meeting to remember.



The girls' dormitory at Thulipokari, Nepal is shown here with a new wall around the dorm, which was funded by SITM to add security for the girls.

Seeking Nominations for 2012-13 SITM Board

It's time to think about nominating your fellow club members to serve in a position on the SITM Board. President Becky, the current board and members voted at the February Business Meeting to elect a Nominating Committee to find members willing to stand for office. The committee is coordinated by Marilyn Pearson, and she is joined by Dot Watts and Doris Phelps.

If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, please see any of these members for a nomination form. The election of news officers for the 2013-2014 Club Year will be held at the April 11 Business Meeting.

Here is a recap of club officers and their duties (taken from SITM Bylaws)

OFFICES AND DUTIES

All officers of SITM serve a one-year term July 1 through June 30, except as noted below. **All officers are members of the board of directors and are required to attend all board meetings.**

PRESIDENT

The president shall be the chief officer; direct the conduct of business of the club; preside at meetings of the club and board; appoint all committees; appoint a parliamentarian and an archivist; be ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall attend all district meetings and region conferences and vote on behalf of club members, speaking for their concerns. Most importantly, she must provide complete information concerning all Soroptimist matters that affect the club and its members.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

The president-elect shall perform duties of the president in the absence of the president; perform such duties as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board; be ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; prepare to serve as club president; oversee the special events committees.

VICE-PRESIDENT/SERVICE

The vice president/service shall preside in the absence of the president and the president-elect; coordinate the service committees by interfacing closely with each service committee coordinator; be ex-officio member of all service committees; perform such duties as arise

from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board.

VICE PRESIDENT/TECHNICAL

The vice president/technical shall preside in the absence of the president, the president-elect and vice president/service; coordinate the technical committees by interfacing closely with each technical committee coordinator; be ex-officio member of all technical committees except the nominating committee; perform such duties as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board.

TREASURER/GENERAL FUND (Two year term, elected in even years)

The treasurer/general fund shall receive, record and deposit all club general funds in the appropriate financial institution prepare dues notice and interface with attendance committee coordinator as described in these bylaws; sign all general fund checks; make remittance as required by federation bylaws and region procedures; pay authorized bills upon warrants approved by the board or as approved in the budget; submit a written financial report at each board meeting, business meeting and at other times when requested by the president or the board; send bills to club members at the end of each month for any amounts owed that month; maintain record of individual member's financial obligation and eligibility to vote; serve as ex-officio member of the finance committee; submit Form 5008 to federation and region for new members, or reinstated members; submit Form 5010 to federation and region for members who have resigned, transferred to another club, or changed their address, email, telephone, etc.

TREASURER/SERVICE FUND (Two year term, elected in odd years.)

The treasurer/service fund shall receive, record and deposit all club service funds in the appropriate financial institution; sign all service fund checks; pay authorized bills upon warrants approved by the board or as approved in the budget; submit a written financial report at each board meeting and business meeting and at other times when requested by the president or the board; serve as ex-officio member of the finance committee.

RECORDING SECRETARY

The recording secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the club and the board; submit to the club the minutes of the club business meetings, board action and the recommendations of the board; submit to the bylaws committee coordinator, finance committee coordinator and the attendance committee coordinator,

copies of minutes of board meetings and club business meetings.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The corresponding secretary shall be in charge of the general correspondence of the club; review club correspondence at board and business meetings; generate such correspondence as directed by the president or the board.

(2) DIRECTOR(S) (Two year term automatically filled by Immediate Past President.)

The director(s) shall perform such duties as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board.

(2) DIRECTORS/DELEGATES (Two year term.)

The directors/delegates shall perform such duties as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board; be informed regarding matters on which a vote at district meetings or region conference is to be taken and know how

club members feel about such issues; attend all district meetings and region conferences and vote on behalf of club members, speaking for their concerns. Most importantly, directors/delegates will provide complete information concerning all Soroptimist matters that affect the club and its members, providing reports of general information regarding meetings and conferences to the board and to the club.

(2) DIRECTORS/ALTERNATE DELEGATE (Two year term.)

The directors/alternate delegate shall perform such duties as arise from membership on the board or as assigned by the president or the board; be informed regarding matters on which a vote at district meetings or region conference is to be taken and know how club members feel about such issues; serve as club delegate at region conferences when the director/delegate is unable to attend; vote on behalf of club members, speaking for their concerns; provide a report to the board and to the members regarding each meeting and conference highlighting adopted resolutions.

If you want to know what REALLY is required to serve in a Club Office, just ask any of these ladies.



SITM's 2012-13 Board – Seated center is President Becky Moody; to her left is Margie Hermanson, President-Elect; and right, Pam Sutton, Vice President Technical. Standing, from left are: Gaye Baxley, Director/Delegate, 1 year; Ann Steckline, Recording Secretary; Betsy Dart, Treasurer-General Fund; Vick Schultz, Treasurer-General Fund; Patty Downs, Director; Mich Glazier, Director/Delegate, 2 years; Dot Watts, Corresponding Secretary. Not pictured are: Michelle Jones, Vice President/Service; Patti Doty, Director 1 year; Penney Leevy, Director/Alternate Delegate, 2 years; Ana Nadimi, Director/Alternate Delegate, 1 year.

Perfect Pairing Another Smashing Success



Jennifer Burnitt, Perfect Pairing Connoisseur, coordinated another successful quarterly pairing of food and wine at Ling and Louies on February 13. Thirty-eight members, guests, many of them Jennifer's co-workers, clients and other acquaintances, attended this quarterly event. The dinner and raffle netted \$1,135 for SITM's Service Fund. Margie Hermanson's husband Bob won the raffle basket. Thanks to all who attended and to those who purchased tickets for others to attend.



SITM Update

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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. no later than 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$16.

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
 Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
 Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . .

Making a Difference for Women Co-Coordinators Georgia Baker and Wendi Dennis presented the program at the February 7 meeting. Special guests Candy Nolte (at podium) and Renie Bonar from Job Opportunities in Nevada (JOIN) also joined us telling success stories of women who attended previous MADFW sessions.

- The committee is looking for your help to:
- Donate items for the even goodie bags for eh attendees
- Donate used, but wearable clothing appropriate for work. Plan to attend on March 9 and participate in this all-day event at the Atlantis in Reno

