

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

President Loves Her Job

I find it hard to believe by the time you are reading this Valentine's Day will have passed. I hope that each of you celebrated with someone you love (or at least like a lot). I know it is a holiday made big by the greeting card industry...but I still love all the hearts, flowers and chocolate. I think it is a perfect time to let those that truly mean something to you, know it. To each of you...YOU MEAN SOMETHING TO ME!! Being President of an organization like Soroptimist is a privilege and one that is made possible by the members that support you. The amount of support I have felt from this club still amazes me. A couple of people of late have asked me how I like being President.....my answer...."I LOVE IT". To each of you I offer a belated HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Please know you are all appreciated and loved.

Co-Coordinators Georgia Baker and Monica House are busy with the MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN project. We had a great kick off meeting with speakers that received scholarships from the event last year. They gave us a view of just how much this event impacted their lives. The fact someone cared, gave them the strength to keep going. We see the women that come and many are quiet and do not say much, but then you hear how much it did help and it gives us the strength to do it one more year. The project is March 8 and it is one you will not want to miss. Sign up sheets are being passed at the meetings....sign your name, put a check for \$32.00 in the envelope (we pay for our own breakfast and lunch) and show up at 7:30AM on Saturday March 8 for one of the best events you will ever attend. I promise you will not be sorry!

In this issue

- 1 – President's Message, New Member Welcome
- 2 – Nominate Unsung Heros, SOLT Orientation, Calendar
- 3 – Member Feature - Vicki Schultz
- 4 – Girls' Dormitory, Nepal Project
- 5 – Understanding Soroptimist Meetings
- 6 – WOA Award Recipients
- 7 – Making a Difference for Women, Speakers
- 8 – Board & Business Update
- 9 – Staff Box, Did You Know ...



A new member induction ceremony was held at the February Business Meeting. From left are: SOLT Co-Coordinator Valerie Sumersille-Hahn, assisted by Becky Moody, Holly Wellborn-Hight, Kay Dunham, Doris Phelps and Joan Griswold.

March 20 is our RUBY AWARD lunch. The winner this year is an amazing woman and one that you will be very excited to hear speak and to meet. I plan on doing a little coaxing to see if she will consider joining our club.... it never hurts to ask!! This is a wonderful meeting to think about bringing a guest too. Remember reservations are to be made by 5 p.m. the Tuesday before the Thursday meeting.

Have a fun filled month and remember to ACCESSORIZE!!!
Love, Margie



Sponsor Kay Dunham, right, pins returning member Holly Wellborn-Hight



Sponsor Doris Phelps, left, pins new member Joan Griswold

Time to Nominate Those Youthful Unsung Heroes

The Thanks to Youth Committee needs your help to locate qualified girls and boys between the ages of seven and 18, who attend school in Washoe County. Winners are selected based on their community service or other outstanding actions which qualify them as Unsung Heroes. Honorees receive a \$200 shopping spree from SITM and are honored at a special luncheon on May 22. Youth scholarships are also honored at this luncheon,

Nomination forms are available on the SITM website at www.sitmnev.org, or contact Co-Coordinators Pam Robinson or Monica House. Nominations must be postmarked no later than March 15.



The Thanks to Youth Committee is already hard at work planning for the May 22 annual recognition of Unsung Heroes among our youth, along with the presentation of youth scholarships.

SOLT Committee Orientations for the Remainder of the Year

By Connie Steinheimer

The Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training (SOLT) Committee will be holding orientation meetings with all prospective members and their sponsors once a month between now and May. The meetings will be held at Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer's home, 1140 Alpine Circle, Reno, from 6-7 in the evening.

Members of the SOLT Committee as well as the Co-Coordinators (Connie and Valerie Summers-Hahn) will be present to discuss the Soroptimist organization, generally, and Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows specifically, with new and prospective members. If you would like to attend, please let Connie know via email at least 24 hours in advance. Please also remember that it is mandatory for a new member to attend or have a session scheduled before they are inducted into membership.

We encourage the sponsors to attend with their new member whenever possible.

Upcoming Soroptimist Orientations:

March 5
April 1
May 5

Calendar

- February 20-- Education Youth
- February 27 -- Public Awareness
- March 6 – IGU Special Update on the Nepal Project
- March 8 – Making a Difference for Women, Atlantis
- March 11 – Board Meeting
- March 13 – Business Meeting
- Arch 20 – Ruby Award Presentation

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Dot Watts, left, is assisted by Pam Robinson and Georgia Baker in showing off a couple of the 80 book pillows she and members are sewing for new students at Libby Booth Elementary School. Thanks to Dot and all of the members for donating their sewing talents. Each pillow will be outfitted with an age-appropriate book and then presented to the students.

An Early Love of Math Carries Vicki Schultz Through Life

By Pam Robinson

Would it surprise you to know that Vicki's favorite subject in school was math? Our current General Fund Treasurer, Vicki Schultz, has been treasurer of nearly every group she's been part of. Vicki is from South Jersey, attended Penn State, majoring in math and science, and graduated from Temple University with a degree in Elementary Education. Growing up, she was mayor of Collingswood, NJ, during Youth Week when she was in the 9th grade and was a cheerleader in high school. She has a younger sister who lives in California.

After college, Vicki married and had two daughters, Ilyse and Lori. She and her family relocated to Orange County, CA when the girls were 3 years and 5 months old respectively, and she enjoyed staying home and volunteering quite a bit, again always treasurer! She returned to college after her daughters were school age and earned her MBA from Cal State Long Beach. After a time, "super mom" became "single mom."



Vicki and family gathered for a birthday celebration, from right: Ty (Nicole's boyfriend), daughter Nicole, son in law Jamie, daughter Lori, Russ and Vicki with Skylar, daughter Ilyse and her boyfriend Mark.

Vicki found a job working for Russ Schultz, who says he didn't know he was hiring a wife when he hired Vicki in 1983 as a financial analyst! They married in 1985, and their daughter Nicole was born on July 20, 1987. Vicki's daughters were 17 and 14 then, and Nicole was a joyful addition to their family. Vicki and Russ have worked together for over 30 years, and it works because they do different things at Schultz Financial Group. Russ is the Chief Investment Officer, and Vicki does most of the client contact and retirement planning. They have clients all over the US, including Florida, Indiana, New Jersey, Texas, California, and Nevada.

Nicole is soon graduating from Tufts University in Boston with a dual Masters' degree in Biochemical Nutrition and Public Health and will be continuing toward her Ph.D. Ilyse now lives in Las Vegas and works for American Airlines, and Lori lives in Bethesda,

MD and works for the FBI at Headquarters in D.C. Lori and her husband just celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary and are the parents of six-year-old Skylar.

Vicki and Russ moved to Reno in 1993. One of their clients had suggested they move here and was having a home built by Mike Holmes & Jeff Ostomel. Vicki met their wives, Connie Steinheimer and Dorothy Nash Holmes, who told her all about Soroptimist. Dorothy sponsored Vicki, she joined in 1994 and has been an active member ever since. She says her funniest moments in SITM happen during the annual Christmas gift delivery. She has seen a few of our famous "naked" seniors! Her favorite committee was Education Women, and she coordinated that committee and its scholarships for several years.

Vicki also serves on the UNR Planned Giving Advisory Council, the UNR Foundation Investment Committee, and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Professional Advisor Council (PAC). She values her membership in SITM where she has made so many friends over the years. Vicki loves to exercise and enjoys kickboxing, yoga, and resistance training. She loves to listen to music, particularly Broadway and Rock 'n Roll, and in her spare time does number puzzles like Sudoku. Vicki and Russ enjoy their two Saint Bernards, Coco and Kacey, who are 9-1/2 years old. Kacey is a canine therapy dog.

Although most of their travel is for work, they enjoy vacationing on the Big Island of Hawaii and go there often. She remembers spending New Year's Eve in Paris on the Avenue des Champs-Elysees many years ago. She and Russ are very much looking forward to going to Nicole's graduation in a few months.



From right: Russ, Nicole, Vicki and Nicole's boyfriend Ty, horseback riding on the big island.

Although Vicki says her life story is boring, that's far from true! Her story is fascinating, and she's been a great friend and role model for all of us in SITM.

Removing Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal

By Patty Downs

In 2000, Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows and the people of Thulipokhari, Nepal, partnered to build a dormitory for girls in the village. SITM donated \$14,000 for materials, and the villagers donated land and labor. In August 2001, 20 girls became the first class to occupy the dormitory. All donations benefit the project, SITM takes no administrative fees. In the past 14 years, SITM has provided over 800 young women with the opportunity for an education. Currently, 260 girls and 217 boys are enrolled in the 2013-14 school year.

In 2003, the Animal Assistance Program was launched to provide loans to the villagers to purchase bee hives, chickens, goats and water buffalos. This program has improved the lives of the villagers by providing protein and self reliance. The interest earned supports the dormitory and scholarship programs.

SITM continues to provide resources to the village. Since 2009, SITM has provided computers, IT support and better internet connectivity, and in 2013, SITM donated a variety of seeds and watering apparatus to the Mother's Group.

SITM has removed many barriers for the people of Thulipokhari, and our own lives have been enriched in the process.



The girls' dormitory at Thulipokhari, Nepal



Dr. Purna Subedi and Jeanne Baxter

Nepal Program Update Coming March 6; Bring a Guest

You won't want to miss the March 6 program meeting, when special guest Dr. Purna Subedi will be bringing an update on SITM's project to Remove Barriers to Education for Girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal.

Plan to bring guests, friends and co-workers to this once-a-year luncheon, as the International Goodwill and Understanding Committee launches their annual pledge drive to support scholarships for the girls and donations towards the Animal Assistance Program for villagers.

Dr. Subedi, a native of Thulipokhari, will speak on the transformation the school, the girls and the village have undergone since SITM launched this project in 2000. You will also learn about two new enterprises undertaken by the village "Mother's Group", raising goats for sale and the Vital Seeds program which encourages the women to grow different varieties of vegetables and sell them for profit.

None of these ventures would have been possible without the generosity of SITM members and friends, the Subedi extended family, the village leaders and the families of Thulipokhari.

Would You Like to Help the Girls in Nepal?

Pledge Forms will be available at the March 6 meeting. Annual sponsorships of \$30 month/\$300 year provide dormitory room and board plus school tuition to receive a two-year advanced education. Donations for school supplies and materials to be shared by all students at the school are also accepted.

The Animal Assistance Program provides low-cost loans to the poorest of the villagers to purchase water buffaloes, goats, chickens and beehives. Simple interest collected from this program is used to further SITM's vision to educate girls in Nepal.

Understanding the Soroptimist Meetings from Beyond the Club

By Chris Fegert

There are several meetings for SITM on a Club, District, and Region level annually, and below is a snapshot of these meetings and what happens at each one.

First we have our District Meetings. Conducted on a Saturday, these meetings generally discuss what is happening in our District III, the Sierra Nevada Region and our Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas.

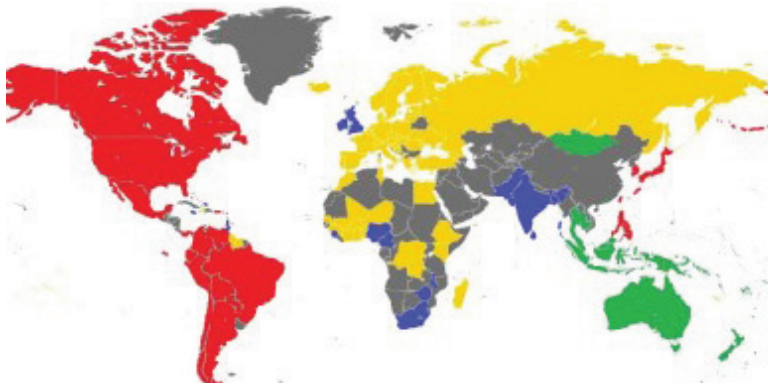
Typically, several speakers make presentations, including the Governor, Governor-Elect and the Treasurer, in addition to other topics such as Public Awareness and Membership. Club Presidents give an update from each of the eight clubs in District III. We currently have seven districts within the Sierra Nevada Region. Our District includes clubs in Susanville, Quincy, three clubs in Reno, Fallon, Winnemucca and Elko. Through a restructuring effort expected to be announced at Region Conference, we could have 12 clubs in our district starting in April and only six districts region-wide.

The Region Conference – is held annually, typically on the last weekend in April, lasting from Friday to Sunday. This conference includes speakers, voting for region officers and bylaw changes at the region level. Reports from various committees and awards for clubs are given...i.e. best newsletter, best fundraiser...etc. We have a federation visitor present, generally someone from the board of Soroptimist International of Americas. They bring us an update on what the federation and Soroptimist International are doing. Operating on a biennial basis, installation of region officers occurs at this conference on even years.

SDR, or Soroptimist Development Retreat is unique to the Sierra Nevada Region and provides training for incoming club officers and members. Held in the July/August time frame, it is highly recommended that everyone attend. It is tons of fun!

SIA - Our federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, also operates on a biennial basis and hosts a convention every two years. Members from clubs in 19 different countries attend this convention. Typically held in July, this four-day event convenes amazing speakers on SIA and SI projects as well as current topics, with opportunities to meet one-on-one with speakers. There are also many workshops to choose from at the convention, such as fundraising, public awareness, etc. There are special luncheons each day, honoring Women's Opportunity Award recipients, along with Club Celebrating Success Awards. Installation of the Federation Officers occurs at this convention.

Four federations make up Soroptimist International. Soroptimist



Soroptimist International

Convention every four years

(Four Federations)

Convention every two years

SI of the Americas

SI of Europe

SI of Great Britain & Ireland

SI of Southwest Pacific

(28 Regions)

Conference Every Year

Sierra Nevada Region

(7 Districts)

Meetings twice per year

District III

(8 Clubs)

SITM Meets weekly

International of the Americas is the largest, with approximately 1,300 clubs in 19 countries geographically covering North/Central/South America, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Guam.

Every four years a Soroptimist International Convention is held, the location of which rotates between the four federations. The next one will be in Istanbul, Turkey. You have an opportunity to meet people from all over the world, learn about their projects and discover similarities and differences among Soroptimists around the world. The last Soroptimist International Convention was in Glasgow and Princess Ann spoke. The parade of flags representing all the countries was amazing.

Soroptimist International is a truly global network, with clubs based in over 3000 communities in 127 countries and territories worldwide.

This map highlights all Soroptimist countries, by federation. The color indicates which Federation the country belongs to. SI of the Americas, red; SI Great Britain and Ireland, blue; SI Europe, yellow, SI South West Pacific, green.

SITM Presents Two WOA Awards to Deserving Women

By Patti Dory

The Women's Opportunity Awards program, nicknamed "WOA" for short, is Soroptimist's major service program. Each year Soroptimist clubs in 19 countries and territories assist women in overcoming personal difficulties and bettering their lives through education and skills training.

Applicants are women who provide the primary financial support for their families and who are enrolled in, or accepted to, a vocational/ skills training program or an undergraduate degree program. Often these women have faced severe hardships that have prevented them from previously pursuing and achieving their educational and professional goals. Frequently they are single mothers relying on public assistance, survivors of domestic abuse or conquerors of addiction. The cash awards may be used to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education including books, childcare and transportation.

The program begins at the club level. The club level recipient is then eligible for awards at other levels of the organization. Since the program's inception in 1972, Soroptimist has funded almost \$5.5 million in Woman's Opportunity Awards and assisted about 1,640 women.

This year, SI Truckee Meadows' WOA recipient is Melissa Hubert. A special WOA was also given to Mary LaMorte.



Shown at the January 23 meeting are Education-Women Co-Coordinator Patti Dory, right, President Margie Hermanson, WOA recipient Melissa Hubert and her daughter, WOA recipient Mary LaMorte and her daughter and Co-Coordinator Marilyn Pearson.



Marilyn Mora, President and CEO of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, spoke at the January 30 meeting. She explained changes and upgrades to the airport and their efforts to attract more carriers to the area.



Special speaker at the WOA luncheon was Deborah Johnson. Deborah was the recipient of a \$6,000 Re-Entry Women's Scholarship from SITM and graduated in May 2013. She is working in a senior living center as a social worker. She says she loves her job. During her presentation, she reminded us all that, "We can make mistakes, but we are not a mistake"

Speakers Illustrate the Importance of Grants After Seminar

Two attendees from last year's Making a Difference for Women Skills Training Seminar who also received grants spoke at the February 6 meeting to describe their experience at the seminar and how the grants helped them. Terri Ann Nichols received a grant to pay for Excel classes in order to apply for a job. Brandy Chadwick used her grant to pay for a medical follow-up after being treated for cancer.

Following the meeting, Brandy wrote Committee Coordinator Georgia Baker the following note: "Thank you for inviting me to the Soroptimist lunch today. It was an incredible experience to show the members the impact they have on women and good opportunity for me to practice my public speaking. I greatly appreciate your drive and desire to help women take control and create their own destinies. I know that with someday soon I will be able to pay it forward. Thank you for these opportunities and your support."



Brandy Chadwick

The Committee Needs Your Help with the following:

1. Donate items, chatzkes and such for the tote bags. They would like 100 of whatever you might donate from your company or business (pens, notepads, gum or candy, or other items.), but will take any number you have.
2. Donate clothes or accessories to the Clothes' Closer available after the seminar. Please clearly mark the sizes and take to Ethan Allen for storage by March 5. Go in the front of the store and tell them you have a delivery. They will instruct you where to take the items.
3. Sign up to work March 8 at the event. Breakfast and lunch are \$32. Check out the clip board being circulated at club meetings.



Terri Ann Nichols

The Making a Difference for Women Committee shows off the tote bags that will be given to each attendee at the all-day Saturday, March 8 event at the Atlantis.



February Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new member Joan Griswold and welcome back to Holly Wellborn-Hight, who were inducted at the February Business Meeting. Joan works in Corporate and Community Engagement for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. She was sponsored by Doris Phelps. Holly has returned to membership from law school. She is a legal intern for the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center. She was sponsored by Kay Dunham.

Bylaw Change Under Consideration

The first reading of a change to Club Bylaws was read at the February Business Meeting. The proposed change would eliminate the position of Alternate Director/Delegate. This position's duties as delegate could become the responsibility of the President-Elect. This effectively eliminates one position from the board.

A second reading will take place at the March Business Meeting, prior to the vote of the membership.

Nomination Committee Seeking Members to Run for Office

As prescribed by Club Bylaws, a Nominating Committee has been formed to assemble a slate of individuals willing to stand for election for the new Club Year. Appointed by President Margie to lead the committee is Cindy Burk. Elected by the Board was Bev Perkins. The membership elected Doris Phelps to the committee. We hope you will consider standing for office for next year. Please nominate a fellow member, or even yourself. Let your wishes be known to any member of the Nominating Committee.

Additional Insurance Purchase OKed

The Board recommended and the membership approved an annual expenditure of \$108 to cover lost, stolen or misappropriation of funds gathered through the club's fundraisers. SITM already carries Directors and Officer Insurance for its Board members.

Gather up Your Toiletries

Diana Dillon and Niki Champ are collecting toiletries again, this time for the Food Bank's backpack program at Wooster High School. So bring in your travel bottles of shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes. They will be collecting them at the club meetings.

Happy Dollar Totals

A total of \$364 in January Happy Dollars were collected for the Food Bank's backpack program. February Happy Dollars are designated for Aimal Zaibatulia's Education Fund.

Membership Update

Leaves of absence were granted through June for Teresa Mentzer, Thuy Tran, Patty Tucek and Sarah Galetti, all for work reasons. Remaining on leave through May 15 is Joan Hughes for travel and Ploypun Pihakane through June for work and personal reasons.

Members donned their red SITM shirts and sweaters for a group photo at the February 13 meeting, which was a nice segue into Valentine's Day. President Margie presented each member with one of her signature sugar cookies in the shape of a stiletto, along with a Valentine-themed pencil.



SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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 Patti Doty
 Patty Downs
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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 \$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
 Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
 Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . . **March 8 is International Women's Day; March is Women's History Month**

Women have long possessed the entrepreneurial spirit. It hasn't always been easy.

But a little bit of the Soroptimist spirit of business and professional women lived in the State of Nevada, long before our service organization was founded.

In honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, here is a reprint of some Nevada history concerning women in business.

On February 6, 1867, the Nevada Legislature passed a law allowing married women to operate their own businesses, independent of their husbands. In order to apply for a court-issued permit to operate her own business, a married woman had to advertise her intent to do so for four consecutive weeks in the local newspaper first. If there was no paper available, then notices in the most public places of the county would suffice.

If her husband owed money, her husband's creditor could oppose the permit if the creditor felt the wife's enterprise assisted the husband in not paying his debt to that creditor. The wife seeking a business permit also had to take an oath, "in the presence of Almighty God," that she was not trying to defraud her husband's creditors.

The wife also could not use more than \$500 of her husband's money for her business (to maintain independence). Finally, and of course, "any married woman availing herself of the benefit of this Act, shall be responsible for the maintenance of her children."

This was more than 50 years before women could even vote (federally).

Reprinted from Jon Ralston Reports, with credit to William Lefkovichs at @HistoryNevada for these items.