

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

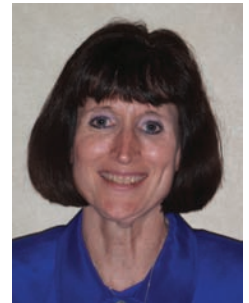
President's Message

The SNR Conference, April 26- 28th was amazing!!! SITM was well represented with the following 14 members in attendance: Jo Ann Roberts, Faye Andersen, Sue Camp, Kay Dunham, Pam Robinson, Gayle Baxley, Bev Perkins, Patti Doty, Margie Hermanson, Pam Sutton, Mich Glazier, Penney Leezey, Enid Oliver and me. Penney Leezey and Jan Veys both had vendor booths at the conference again this year. It was such an honor for our club to be recognized at the Region level and to accept the club's 2nd Place – Celebrating Success – Public Awareness Award for our Facebook and Website and our 3rd Place Newsletter Award! Congratulations everyone!!! Everyone works so hard all year to get our name out there and after attending the conference, believe me, the compliments we receive are incredible!! To echo Faye Andersen, we all need to pat ourselves on the back!! And there is one more individual to acknowledge....our own Patti Doty was elected to the Region's Nominating Committee!! Congratulations Patti!!! Thank you to everyone that attended the conference and shared in the excitement!!

Our WOA winner, Danielle Matthews, was also recognized at the Region conference and did such a phenomenal job with her acceptance speech. She is such a delightful young lady and was joined by her mother, Cheri, and friend, Chelsea. She made SITM very proud and is such an inspiration to many!!!

Our Annual Scholarship Luncheon was also another

stellar event with a record crowd of about 85 attendees. The awardees were so appreciative of our help!! We now have a second KLEENEX lunch!! Thank you again to the Education Women Committee for reviewing and selecting these young ladies and hosting a wonderful luncheon!!



Please plan to join us for our Thanks to Youth Luncheon on May 23rd as it promises to be another tear jerker!! This time we will have Kleenex on the tables!! SITM will award \$10,000 in scholarships to five high school seniors and \$1,200 to six unsung heroes.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day. My mom turned 94 this month and I would like to share this poem by Jerry Knoll that she gave me several years ago that I treasure very much and still carry in my wallet!

My Daughter I Wish You

*When you're lonely, I wish you Love....
When you're sad, I wish you Joy...
When you're discouraged, I wish you Hope...
When you're spirit is low, I wish you Beauty...
When you're troubled, I wish you Peace.*

I wish each of you all of these things!! Happy Mother's Day!!

President Becky

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SNR Governor Janice Labadie pins a Laurel Society pin on President Becky Moody at conference.



May Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new member Patty Tucek, who was inducted at the May Business Meeting. Patty is the office manager for Allstate/Mentzer Insurance. She was previously a member of SITM and her sponsor is Teresa Mentzer. Welcome back Patty.

New Club Budget Approved

The second "reading" of the General and Service Fund Budgets were given at the May Board meeting and passed by the membership.

Book Drive Coming Up

Members Niki Ewing and Angela Owings were given the go-ahead by the membership to solicit for books for the Volunteers in America Homeless Shelter and Libby Booth Elementary School. Books for all school ages would be appropriate. Contact Niki or Angela for questions, or to drop off books.

Thanks to Youth Tickets Distributed

The annual Thanks to Youth Scholarships and Unsung Hero Awards will be held May 23 at the Atlantis. Vicki Schultz and Enid Oliver are distributing tickets for members to sell at \$25 each. Members need to buy their own ticket for lunch. Don't forget to invite a friend or co-worker to this heart-warming program.

Happy Dollars for Aiden's Gift

Some \$419 in Happy Dollars for April was raised for Aiden's Gift, a local charity started by a family whose eight-month old baby was affected by shaken baby syndrome. May's Happy Dollars are designated for Koz's Kids, founded in 2007 by Kelli Vilorio and others in memory of a fellow prosecutor, Cheryl Kosewicz. The organization works directly with children living at Kid's Kottage, and provides them with clothes, shoes, backpacks, and fun field trips, as the children transition through foster care.

Membership Notes

The Board approved a leave of absence for Marna Griffin through June 30. Remaining on leave is Lynn Robins through June 30 for medical reasons.



Poco Davis new SIA President

The Sierra Nevada Region's own Margaret "Poco" Davis has been elected the 2013-2014 Soroptimist International of the Americas President-elect and will assume that office on September 1, 2013. She will assume the office of SIA President on September 1, 2014, and will serve in that position through August 31, 2015.

For the first time, SIA utilized preferential voting for the President-elect ballot. There were four rounds of ballot counting for the four candidates to determine a candidate with a majority of votes cast.

Poco is a Past President of SI/Reno South (now disbanded) and SI/Metropolitan Las Vegas. She served two terms as District I Director for SNR and as SNR Governor from 2006-2008.

Congratulations Poco!

Calendar

- May 16 – 2013-14 Club Year Committee Sign-ups - President Elect Margie
- May 23 – Thanks to Youth Luncheon
- May 30 – SOLT Committee
- June 6 – Hospitality Committee
- June 8 – IGU Garage Sale – Connie Steinheimer's Home – 1140 Alpine Circle, Reno
- June 11 – Joint Board Meeting – 5:30 PM – Dermody Properties, 5500 Equity Ave.
- June 13 – Business Meeting
- June 20 – Year In Review – Scrapbook Committee
- June 27 – Installation of President Margie and the 2013-14 SITM Board
- July 4 - DARK

You can follow our weekly activities on:



SNR 37th Conference Another Success

The 37th Annual Sierra Nevada Region Conference was an exciting weekend of club and member recognitions, scholarship, prizes and award presentations, informative and inspiring words from Federation and International leaders, shopping, fun and friendship and camaraderie. By the end of the weekend, some 362 Soroptimist members and guests attended the April 26-28 conference at the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa in Reno.

Club Awards were presented for programs, membership recruitment and retention, newsletter and publicity. SITM was recognized with a second place Soroptimist Celebration Success Award for Public Awareness and a third place award for Club Newsletter.

An update on the SNR Project, "My Sister's House" was given and a check for \$5,830 was presented to Nilda Valmores of My Sister's House.



Enjoying dinner and camaraderie during Saturday's Banquet at Region Conference are (seated from left): Pam Sutton, Enid Oliver, Christel Neldner and Faye I. Andersen. Standing from left are: Margie Hermanson, Bev Perkins, Kay Dunham, Patti Doty, Mich Glazier, Jo Ann Roberts, Pam Robinson, Penney Leezy, President Becky Moody and Gayle Baxley.

Capping the evening was a presentation by the District I Clubs entitled "Break These Chains Live Free", proposing an end to human trafficking. They invited Soroptimists to join their efforts to change legislation to increase penalties for perpetrators and protect victims and raise money to combat human trafficking and provide support for victims. Visit www.BreakTheseChainsLiveFree.org for more information.

Saturday, April 27

Saturday's Business Session moved quickly, as all 10 of the proposed Laws and Resolutions Committee Bylaw changes were adopted. Voting for the 2013-15 SNR Nominating Committee was held. SITM's own Patti Doty was elected as the District III representative to the Nominating Committee. They are responsible for providing nominations for the 2014-16 SNR Officers and Directors.

Friday, April 26

A Friday pre-conference panel discussion on "Women Leaders in Civil Society" was presented by Brooke Laine, SI/South Lake Tahoe; Andrea Jones, SI/Davis; and Kim Sayers SI/Bidwell Rancho.



Patti Doty is the newly-elected District III Representative to the Region Nominating Committee.

Friday evening opened the conference with the traditional "Parade of Presidents" recognizing each Club President for her year of service. Also recognized were Past SNR Governors, Life Members, Laurel Society and Laurel Legacy members and First Time Attendees.

At lunch, the SNR recipients of the Violet Richardson Award, the Ruby Award and the Outstanding S Club Student Award were presented.

SITM Member Gayle Baxley was honored by Governor Janice Labadie for her many years of service as the Newsletter Editor for many past SNR Conferences.

Reports continued Saturday afternoon with a Federation Update from SIA's official visitor, Director Paula Voerding, who shared information about SIA's Live Your Dream campaign to empower women



Gayle Baxley was recognized during conference for her many years as editor of the Conference Newsletter.

and girls to live their dreams. The four SNR Federation Liaisons each gave reports on Fundraising, Public Awareness, Membership and Program.

Soroptimist International President Speaks

Eighteen months into her term as SI President, Alice Wells has visited all four Federations and she brought news of each, along with the 90,000 members located in 127 countries. She spoke about the Soroptimist International of the Americas focus on Human Trafficking.

President Alice also explained replacement of the traditional SI Quadrennial Project with the ongoing "Educate to Lead" emphasizing Soroptimists educating, empowering, and enabling opportunities for women



SI President Alice Wells visits New Guinea

and girls around the world. Some 93,729 women and girls directly benefitted from Soroptimist "Educate to Lead" projects in 2011. Close to \$4,000,000 was raised to support this work.

She was most impassioned when speaking about the SI President's Appeal Project "Birthing in the Pacific". To date, \$467,906 has been raised for the project to save lives by increasing access to skilled birth attendants and health care services in Papua, New Guinea. President Alice spoke of some of the customs and traditions which endanger the lives of mother and child. She also showed slides depicting the barriers to women seeking birthing assistance, like long walks through treacherous terrain, and lack of qualified health providers.

Sunday Morning

The Celebration of Life Memorial opened Sunday morning with remembrances of the 20 Soroptimists who



Enjoying a libation before Saturday Banquet at conference are from left, Sue Camp, Mich Glazier, Margie Hermanson and President Becky Moody.

had passed away since last conference.

During brunch, a total of \$23,000 in scholarships and grants was awarded to seven Women's Opportunity Award recipients, the Ruby Award and Fellowship Grant recipients. Danielle Mathews, WOA recipient from SITM was among the region winners.

The conference closed with the long-awaited 50/50 raffle winner receiving \$1,576, who promptly donated \$500 to My Sister's House. Basket raffles raised an impressive \$4,429.



Honorees at Sunday's brunch, from left, Saira Haseebullah (Fellowship Award), and Women's Opportunity Award winners Danielle Mathews, Katherine Rempt, Amanda Caudill, Lisa Thor, Valerie Sawyers and Margaret Walubengo are congratulated by Gov. Janice Labadie.

SITM help Grow Laurel Society Membership

SITM began the weekend with 17 members of the Soroptimist International of the Americas Laurel Society, but the numbers swelled to 19 by the end of SNR Conference.

Part of SITM member Kay Dunham's duties as the SNR Federation Fundraising Liaison is to promote membership in the SIA Laurel Society. For example, for a donation of \$1,000 a member can join the Laurel Society and receive a special pin indicating their membership at the attaché level.

To help increase membership, Kay and some SITM volunteers sold \$10 raffle chances to win a Laurel Society membership and pin. She conducted a special raffle in the weeks leading up to conference exclusively for SITM members and Penney Leezy was the lucky winner.

Three 100 raffle ticket lots were sold, along with four other Laurel Society memberships sold to clubs and members, thus raising \$7,000 for the Laurel Society. SITM President Becky Moody was the lucky recipient of one of those drawings.

Laurel Society Funds are used to fund the Federation's Women's Opportunity Awards, Violet Richardson Award, Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls, STOP Trafficking, and the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence.



Soroptimist International President Alice Wells speaks at our annual Women's Scholarship luncheon.



At right, SI President Alice Wells pins Penney Leezy with a Laurel Society Pin as SNR's SIA Fundraising Liaison Kay Dunham watches.

SITM Members of the SIA Laurel Society

Attaché members -- \$1000-\$2,499 (Sapphire)

Georgia Baker
Gayle Baxley
Jeanne Baker
Patti Doty
Patty Downs
Penney Leezy
Teresa Mentzer
Becky Moody
Jeanne Neddenriep
Marilyn Pearson
Paula Ringkob
Pam Robinson
Beverly Perkins



Envoy Members -- \$2,500 \$4,999 (Ruby)

Faye I. Andersen
Sue Camp
Diana Dillon
Kay Dunham
Jo Ann Roberts
Norma Webster

STM has two Laurel Legacy members who have made arrangements in their estate planning for Soroptimist International of the Americas to receive a future gift. They are Kay Dunham and Diana Dillon.

SITM Awards \$35,000 in Women's Scholarships

Photos by Paula Leyba, The Image Gallery



Nancy Gomes-Mary Gojack Reentry Women's Scholarship recipients re from left are: Dora Martinez, Amanda Martinez, Aimee Lopes, Danielle Fargo, Farah Rashdan, Lauren Rogers and Danielle Mathews.

Eight Re-entry Women's Scholarship recipients and three Graduate Scholarship recipients were awarded a total of \$35,000 towards their schooling at the April 25 SITM luncheon.

Due to its proximity to SNR Conference, SITM invited the SNR Officers and Directors to join us for this special luncheon. Many did, along with other Soroptimists in the area preparing for conference.

The special speaker for the day was Soroptimist International President Alice Wells. Following the presentation of the recipients, President Alice complimented SITM for the many successful programs operated by the club including girls' dormitory and schooling in Nepal, women's scholarships, women's skills training workshops and our annual youth recognition and scholarship programs.

President Alice gave a preview of her speech for the SNR Conference explaining the "Educate to Lead" program, with its ES model of Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to lead. She also discussed the success of the December 10th President's Appeal project "Birthing in the Pacific" to train midwives.

In honor of her visit, SITM President Becky presented President Alice with a check for \$500 for her President's Appeal project, enough to provide training for two midwives. Some \$291 in December Happy Dollars was already donated for this project.



Amanda Martinez, left and sister Dora Martinez, flank their grandmother, who attended the luncheon and thanked SITM members for supporting her granddaughters.



Graduate students receiving the Jack Simon Memorial Scholarship are from left, Carolyn Hughes, T Vasquez and Brenda Klug.

2013 Jack Simon Scholarship Recipients

Carolyn Hughes – Masters in School Administration
Brenda Klug – Masters in Counseling & Educational Psychology
T Vasquez – Masters of Fine Arts.

2013 Gomes/Gojack Scholarship Recipients

Danielle Fargo – Marriage & Family Therapist Degree
Moriah Flannery – Administrative Professional A.A.S. Degree
Aimee Lopes – Registered Nursing Degree
Dora Martinez – Registered Nursing Degree
Danielle Mathews – Registered Nursing Degree
Farah Rashdan – Human Development & Family Studies Degree
Lauren Rogers – Registered Nursing Degree

Thanks to Youth Coming Soon!

By Pam Robinson

It's not too late to sell more tickets and invite your friends and co-workers to the 26th SITM Thanks to Youth Luncheon. This year we are honoring five graduating seniors with scholarships and six unsung heroes. Our honorees have overcome financial, health and language barriers, saved lives, and volunteered hundreds of hours in the community, all while being shining examples to their families and peers. You won't want to miss it!

Tickets for the luncheon are \$25, and Soroptimist sponsorship tables are available for \$250. Our emcee this year is Erin Breen, award winning writer, reporter, and educator. The funds we raise at this luncheon fund our scholarships and other youth projects for next year. We want to fill the room so generously donated by the Atlantis.

Please contact Pam Robinson or Cindy Burk with any questions, and sell those tickets!!

Michelle Jones conducted a Bingo game for member's enjoyment to promote the TTY program, while her four-year-old son Braden announced the selected numbers at the April 18 meeting.



SITM's Website and Facebook Featured

The Public Awareness –Website – Facebook Committee presented an informative program at the May 2 meeting. Coordinator Niki Ewing, at right, showed what was available on SITM's Facebook page. She keeps the page current with information about our scholarships, conference, garage sale and much more.



Webmistress Pam Sutton, at left, indicated over 60% of members do use the website for forms, rosters and programs. If members are having problems with access, especially the members' section, Pam can help. Niki suggested putting the Club Roster on your iPhone and she offered her assistance as well.



Adventures In and Out of the Tech World for Pam Sutton

By Faye I. Andersen

Pam Sutton is known as SITM's long-term Webmistress and advocate for on-line communications. She comes by it naturally having spent most of her life with one foot in and out of high tech during her working career. But she eventually found her niche in the creative world of glassworks.



Today, in Reno she's a long way from her upbringing in southern California. She attended public schools, until, "my mom thought I needed a better education" so Pam was sent to Polytechnic

School, a private college prep school in Pasadena. Pam remembers, "We had to wear uniforms that were right out of the 1920s, but the curriculum was good and I learned how to study and how to think analytically."

She grew up a self-professed "beach bum kid", body surfing in Newport and Laguna and a driver's license was her ticket to packing up a bunch of girlfriends and heading for the beach. "I had little concept of responsibility then," Pam admits and relates a funny story about how she and her friends scrounging through teen-aged purses and even the floorboards of the car to get enough cash for gas to drive home.

When not at the beach she spent time riding horses, paying for her riding and jumping lessons by "helping to catch, groom and saddle the rent string at a nearby stable." She would also lead trail rides and ended up riding horses most of her weekends.'

Leaving her carefree days behind, Pam got her MBA from San Jose State University and plunged head-first into Silicon Valley in the early 1980s. "So naturally I went into high tech where I was in marketing, project and program management," Pam said. "It was an exciting time and I had the opportunity to work for several excellent companies."

Moving to Reno in 1990 was a difficult transition for Pam. Because high tech hadn't yet reached our fair city, she

managed by commuting back to Silicon Valley to work as a consultant for many years. Tiring of the commute, Pam took a step back in technology time and went to work for the State of Nevada.

Pam had been coming to Reno for several years in the 1980s to fly gliders out in Palomino Valley. She knew Life Member Laurie Chappelle, who introduced her to Soroptimist. "I was intrigued by the idea of professional women doing so much good in the community.

In addition to flying, scuba diving and gardening, Pam decided to take up glassmaking as a hobby. She took early retirement in 2003 to care for her husband Bruce, who was ill. But, before retiring she built herself a workshop in the backyard. "I spent a lot of time making stuff and attending the occasional craft fair. My very first was the SITM Arts & Authors fundraiser at the Auto Museum."

After a nine year battle, Pam's husband died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). "I learned a lot during those years about the value of life and relationships, Pam admits. "It's taken a long time for me to go through the grieving and personal rebuilding process and I'm feeling strong and in balance and ready to take on the world." During that time, Pam turned to glassmaking full time. "I consider it my third career," she said. "It's pure joy to commute 30 seconds across the yard to a job that I love."

Pam has already taken on the art world as the current President of the North Tahoe Arts Board of Directors, where they have an artisan shop and she sells her glassworks.

Now she has added SITM as our newly elected President-Elect. In one short year Pam will be our SITM President.



News from One of Our Scholarship Recipients

by Pam Robinson

Many of us remember April Perkins, our Women's Opportunity Award winner and scholarship recipient in 2009. She then won a WOA award at the Sierra Nevada Region that same year.

April graduated from TMCC in radiology technology and is the mom of four children. She and her children had to overcome many family abuse issues, but through it all April was an example to her family and to her peers. Many of us met her when she volunteered for us at the Air Races, and she has done a great job keeping in touch!

She recently emailed with an update, and here is her message:

"Well, to start off, I work full time and have excelled in my career in radiology. I have recently redone all the protocols for their fluoro department. I also head up special studies for a local rheumatologist and prescription companies for drug treatment trial study on medications for cancer treatment.

Well, for my personal life, I got married!!! He is amazing to me and my kids. I live in Winnemucca and travel for my job. I want to thank you for everything that you did and the faith that you had in me."

She is now April Perkins Harwart, and life is good. Some of our members have seen her at work! She is a shining star and an inspiration to all of us.



The Harwarts

GARAGE SALE

We're doing it again.

We need your donations!!!

Drop-Off at Ethan Allen

SITM'S GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 8, 2013



at Judge Connie Steinheimer's home
1140 Alpine Circle, Reno

Setup Friday, June 7

Proceeds to benefit Nepal dormitory/
scholarship/animal assistance and
other IGU projects

Workers Needed for
Friday Set-up and
Saturday Sales & Clean-up

Sign-up sheets at the meetings
Questions: Call Judge Connie at
(775) 771-7512

Nominate an Outstanding Member for the Ceec Abrahams Award

Each year the Ceec Abrahams Award is presented to a member of SITM who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in her support of the club and its activities. Ceec Abrahams was a founding member of SITM and worked tirelessly to promote the spirit of community and volunteerism. Ceec was a member of Soroptimist from 1958 until 1983. The award was instituted in her honor. This award will be presented at the Year in Review meeting on June 20, 2013.

While our officers and committee coordinators volunteer countless hours of their time fulfilling their duties, this award seeks to recognize an "every member" for her tireless efforts. This is a member who volunteers readily, perhaps without being asked, is always there when you need her, is reliable and responsible and demonstrates her support of the organization and its goals.

Previous winners are not eligible for the award and are listed below:

Faye I. Andersen	Cindy Burk
Laurie Chappelle	Pam Robinson
Jo Ann Roberts	Georgia Baker
Jeanne Baxter	Kay Dunham
Shirley George	Paula Ringkob
Carrie Porter	Patty Downs
Janice Hoke	Teresa Mentzer
Monica House	Marilyn Pearson
Gayle Baxley	Norma Rash
Diana Dillon	Connie Steinheimer

Please send your nomination by email to Connie Steinheimer at judge.steinheimer@gmail.com or deliver to Connie Steinheimer, SOLT Co-Coordinator, by Monday, June 3, 2013.

Beads of Strength for Cancer Patients

Nine SITM members made 50 bracelets along with some key chains for the male cancer patients completing their treatments at Renown Institute for Cancer. Ana Nadimi, Niki Ewing, Anna Mc Ardle, Margie Hermanson, Bev Perkins, Ann Steckline, Kay Dunham, Dot Watts, Becky Moody and Marilyn Pearson had a lovely potluck dinner and fabulous desserts including strawberry shortcake, brownies, and Margie's chocolate chip cookies.



SITM Committees and Members Dedicated to Service



The Thanks to Youth Committee basket makers met at Teresa Mentzer's home for dinner and basket making. Members prepared about 40 baskets for the raffle at the May 23rd Thanks to Youth program. Some of the basket makers were Bev Perkins, Margie Hermanson, Thuy Tran and Teresa Mentzer.



Michelle Jones and Bev Perkins add their creativity to the baskets.



Diana Dillon, left and Niki Ewing delivered 60 afghans for women and children at Reno's Homeless Shelter operated by Volunteers of America. Eleven Soroptimists and friends spent 900 hours hand making the afghans.



SOLT Co-Coordinator Valerie Summersille-Hahn, left and Connie Steinheimer conduct an induction ceremony for Patty Tucek. Next to Patti is her sponsor Teresa Mentzer. Congratulations and welcome back Patty.

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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Pam Sutton
Niki Ewing
Margie Hermanson
Paula Leyba
Michelle Jones

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 . . .

As of April 1, 2013 there are 60 clubs in the Sierra Nevada Region, with 1,866 members, 243 of whom are new this fiscal year.

- SNR Development Retreat will be July 26-27, 2013 at the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa in Reno.
- The 38th Annual SNR Conference will be held April 25-27, 2014 at the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa in Reno.
- The 43rd Biennial SIA Convention will be July 23-26, 2014 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- The Quadrennial Soroptimist International Convention will be July 9-12 in Istanbul, Turkey.