

# SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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

## Soroptimist Development Retreat Focuses on Recruitment and Retention

(excerpted from Delegate Bev Perkins report to the club)

Seven SITM members attended the Sierra Nevada Region's annual Soroptimist Development Retreat (SDR), formerly COTR, July 26 & 27 at the Atlantis in Reno. This year's theme was definitely recruitment of new members and retention of existing members.

Friday afternoon's program included an interactive exercise of do's and don'ts for a successful recruitment mixer. Plus there was discussion of

the importance of holding a club retreat, along with an icebreaker game focusing on "What's in it for me?" During the evening session, the District III Director (and SNR E-Blast Coordinator) Stacey Sawyer gave an update on using social media and why it is important to clubs.

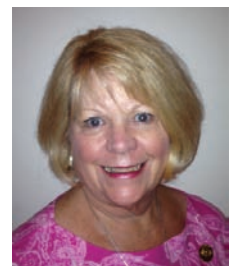
SNR Governor Janice Labadie introduced two new programs at SDR. The first program is called the "Golden Ticker", which is a way for clubs to invite prospective members to a district meeting to learn about Soroptimist, while the region picks up the costs.

Governor Janice also introduced a region-wide program of honoring women who serve in the military. This is a year-long program encouraging clubs to seek out and honor these women in our own communities.

Saturday at SDR individual workshops were held for new presidents, secretaries and treasurers, plus workshops on new member recruitment, social media and advocacy at the club level. Additional speakers covered topics including leadership, strategic planning, finding the potential in each member and creating a thriving club atmosphere.

## A Message from President Margie

The first few meetings of the new year have been fun and gift filled for our members. Both our VP's, Jennifer Burnitt and Vivian Ruiz had fun filled games for the members to play and awarded them some great prizes. Thank you both for starting out the year with a couple of great meetings. Our board members brought pictures of themselves in a younger state and our first business meeting had our members guessing who was who. This is not as easy as it sounds. We had two winners that went home with presents. See what you may miss if you do not attend a meeting....PRESENTS!! This is the FUN part of fun, service and friendship!



Newly retired Doreen Rogers presented the club with a check for \$500 to Thanks To Youth from



Gathering at the Soroptimist Development Retreat were from left: SITM Treasurer Vicki Schultz; President Margie Hermanson, Past SNR Governor Sue Camp, SNR Governor Janice Labadie and District III Director Stacey Sawyer.

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*President's Message cont. from page 1*

US Bank. What a dedicated member that with all that is going on with retirement she thought about us and the donation to SITM. Thank you Doreen and CONGRATULATIONS!

Several members attended the SDR. (Soroptimist Development Retreat) the end of July. This is a conference that all members should think about going to at least once. A lot of information is obtained and since it is a smaller conference you really get a chance to get to know other clubs and their members. A new project that Governor Janice is trying to get started is titled "Women Honoring Women Who Serve". We will be getting into more detail about this, but basically we are encouraged to invite women in the service to attend our conference on April 25, 2014.

We had a fun meeting, again with prizes, to kick off the Air Races. Each member is asked to staff the booth for 3 shifts. You can do it or ask a friend or relative. This is our main fundraiser during the year. Kay and Diana work very hard on this. The BIG thing they did this year was to recruit Niki Ewing to be in charge of the work dates sign up sheets. Thank you Niki!!!! If you have not signed the sheet with your work days, you can email her and get available dates. This is the "SERVICE" part of your accessorizes! Your shoes must be comfortable and your clothes must be in layers...with that you will ACCESSORIZE YOURSELF WITH SERVICE!!

Make sure you check out our web site, [www.sitmny.org](http://www.sitmny.org) and see all the information on there. A complete calendar of the year has been added. Thank you President Elect Pam. The new rosters have gone to print.....a very big thank you to Faye Andersen and the new roster is also posted on the website. The printed versions will be ready for you very soon.

The club year is off with a bang and I thank each of you for your support. We are an amazing group and with that comes the FRIENDSHIP.

FUN, SERVICE and FRIENDSHIP...  
what more can we ask for?

President Margie



*Preparing for the new year, Committee Coordinators met at President Margie Hermanson's home for dinner and a planning session. In the foreground and clockwise are Millie Mitchell, Education/Women; Jennifer Burnitt, VP-Service Committees; Jeanne Baxter, IGU; Pam Sutton, VP Service; Mich Glazier, Hospitality; and Carol Dinneen, Education/Youth.*



*More Committee Coordinators joining in the planning session were, in the foreground and clockwise, Diana Dillon, Air Races; Faye Andersen, Newsletter and Roster; Patty Downs, Human Rights/Status of Women; Bev Perkins, Attendance; Becky Moody, Finance/Bylaws.*

## Calendar

- August 22 --Education Youth
- August 29 -- Hospitality
- September 5 -- Recruitment and Retention
- September 8-15 -- Reno Air Races (Each member is responsible for 3 shifts)
- Sept. 10 – Board Meeting at NV Energy
- Sept. 12 – Business Meeting
- September 15 Endowment Fund Applications due to Region
- Sept. 19 – SOLT
- Sept. 26 – Bracelet Making
- Oct.3 – Public Awareness
- Oct. 5 -- IGU Garage Sale

You can follow our weekly activities on:



## SITM's Committees Gear Up for the New Year

*Vivian Ruiz, VP of Technical Committees leads SITM members in a game of "Let's Make a Deal" as she discusses committee duties. Seated behind Vivian is Jennifer Burnitt, VP of Service Committees who conducted her own "game" the week prior while discussing the upcoming year and ideas for speakers and programs. Thanks to SITM's VPs for a great launch of SITM's Committees for the New Year.*



*Lucky prize winners of the "committee games" were Michelle Jones and Georgia Baker. Various prizes included Starbucks gift cards.*



*More lucky committee winners were Vicki Schultz and Valerie Sumersille-Hahn*

## Alaskan Transplant Finds a “Home” at SITM - Dot Watts

By Pam Robinson

After joining SITM in 2011, Dot jumped right into its myriad of activities. She knew she was “home” when Past President Norma Rash hugged and welcomed her into the club. Currently serving a second term on the Board as Corresponding Secretary, she also coordinated Photo-Scrapbook last year along with her sponsor, Marilyn Pearson. Besides scrapbooking, the Air Races is one of her favorite projects because of the opportunity to visit with other SITM members and people from all over the world. She has enjoyed working on all our projects and getting to know the club members.



*In order for Vern to agree to four seasons, Dot had to agree to shovel the snow.*

Dot moved to Reno in 2010 when she and her husband, Vern, retired after living and working in Anchorage, Alaska for 40 years. They moved to Reno because of its four seasons (Dot agreed she would shovel all the snow) and bought a home in Somersett within walking distance of its golf course (important to her avid golfer husband).

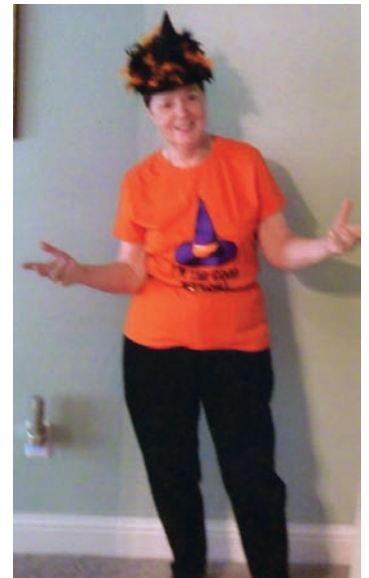
Dot was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Lakeshore Teachers College and taught elementary school for 8 years. She then took a position as head of Physical Education and taught 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade at a middle school. Because she had summers off, she traveled a great deal which is how she met her husband of 42 years. In 1969, she and three of her friends visited Alaska. Their mode of travel was very unique – sky hiking. As Dot explains, her Australian friend suggested this method. They would go to local airports and ask if any pilots were flying south since they were “stranded” and needed a ride home. When they were in Anchorage, the weatherman at the airport took Dot’s phone number, gave it to her now husband Vern who gave her a ride in a Cessna 210 along the coast of Alaska. It was an adventure!

The following year, she returned to Anchorage for a visit and Vern proposed. After she thought about

it, she said “Yes”. They were married in 1971 in Toronto in a unique ceremony with both a Roman Catholic and an Anglican priest. She then moved to Anchorage and opened and operated a preschool and childcare facility for 9 years. Until she retired, she worked at the City of Anchorage as a Child Care Licensing Specialist. Vern flew helicopters supporting the oil drilling industry on the North Slope and was also a pilot for the Alaska Army National Guard. They have two children. Their daughter, Valerie, and her husband live in Anchorage where she works for the State of Alaska Child Protective Services, and their son, Chris, lives in New York and is a children’s clothing designer.

Dot was instrumental in coordinating the reading pillow project for Libby Booth last year (and was probably sewing pillows in her sleep after sewing so many). She met her sponsor Marilyn through Sierra Nevada Stitchers. She also volunteers for the food bank at St. Paul’s church and enjoys her Somersett neighbors, the Whimsical Women Who Wine (formerly Wild Wicked Women Who Wine) in many activities. She often attends her husband’s Lions Club meetings to learn more about their activities and gain some ideas for SITM.

As an 8-year-old, she and her friend Carol forged a lasting relationship swimming from cottage to island in the summers and still keep in close touch. This is characteristic of Dot who has literally jumped into the swim of SITM and has already made many lasting friendships.



*Being a Soroptimist allows Dot to stay young. (There was never a doubt Dot.)*

*Sometimes a “mistake” can turn into something beautiful.*



## August Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new member Barbara Atwell, owner of Quilted B. Barbara was inducted at the August Business Meeting. She was sponsored by Penney Leezy, although President Margie stepped in for the introduction.



*New member Barbara Atwell, far right, is inducted into membership by Georgia Baker, left, and President Margie Hermanson. Barbara was sponsored by Penney Leezy.*

### Happy Dollars Are All Designated

At the August Board and Business Meetings, designated organizations to receive Happy Dollars were named for all of the remaining months for the rest of the Club Year. Happy Dollars collected in July totaled \$180 and were designated for Family Counseling Services for new computers. August Happy Dollars are designated for VSA Nevada, providing arts opportunities and education for children, youth, and adults.

### Your help is needed at the Reno Air Races

Lots of members, family members, co-workers and friends are needed to staff the Reno Air Racing Association's merchandise tent at the Reno Air Races at Stread, September 8-15. Sunday, September 8 is set-up day for the tent and merchandise. Morning or afternoon shifts are needed to be filled for the remaining seven days. Niki Ewing is taking sign-ups, or contact Diana Dillon or Kay Dunham for more information.

### Nepal Project Funding

This month, \$14,000 in Nepal project funds will be transmitted to SITM's girls' dormitory and other projects in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Some \$10,170 will address tuition, room and board, plus pay for the house mother and cook, and the annual operating costs for the dormitory kitchen and computer room. Another \$2,000 is designated for books for the school/community library, a priority discovered by our members who visited the village. Another \$1,000 for a second venture

project for the Mother's Group initiated last year, "Seeds for Planting" program. The remaining \$830 will go to the Animal Assistance program to loan to villagers to purchase water buffaloes, goats, chickens or bee hives.

### Garage Sale Set for October 5

Mark your calendars for October 5. You have about seven weeks to clean out those closets, rummage through the garage and shed, and donate your treasures to the IGU Committee's semi-annual garage sale. Working Friday has its advantages for early-bird shopping and Margaritas?

### Shop For and Donate School Supplies

With a recommendation of the board and approval of the membership, the Education/Youth Committee will be soliciting members to donate school supplies to Libby Booth Elementary. Committee members will be collecting items such as glue sticks, pencils, crayons, Kleenex, pencil boxes, pocket folders and backpacks, at each meeting through September 5. No time to shop? The committee will accept your cash donation and purchase supplies on your behalf.

### Santa's Workshop Coming In December

Also approved at the August Board Meeting is the Education/Youth's participation in Libby Booth's annual Santa's Workshop. At the appropriate time, the committee will be collecting wrapping paper and small gift items for the children to give to their parents. Voluntary "wrappers" will also be needed as December gets closer.

### District Meeting Coming in October

Another important date in October to get on your calendar is October 19. SITM has been asked to host the District III Fall Meeting in Reno on October 19. The SI/Reno members will be supplying the food. SITM members are responsible for the logistics, registration, credentials and other meeting details. Plan to attend, pitch-in to help and also enjoy the meeting.

### Membership Update

Members remaining on leave through September are Lynn Robins for surgery and Patti Doty for travel; for Marna Griffin through October 12 for travel; and Ploypun Pihakane through January 8 for work.

Long-time member Carrie Porter has moved to southern California. For her new address and home phone see the Club Roster (update has been posted on the [www.sitmnv.org](http://www.sitmnv.org) website). Her cell phone number remains the same and her new email address is: [tpareno#1@charter.net](mailto:tpareno#1@charter.net).

## News of our Friendship link with SI/Pune Metro East By Monica House

SI/Pune Metro East is continuing to work on violence against women and girls in India by educating, empowering, and enabling them to take their future into their own hands. They are keeping this issue very high on their program agenda especially after the horrific attacks on the two young women in New Dehli.

Following these attacks SI/Pune conducted three training sessions this year on anger management and dealing with conflict. They highlighted the need to change social attitudes towards women and gender violence. Their interactive sessions focused on situations in the home, triggering situations and helping women to be safer and how to put themselves in more powerful positions.

SI/Pune "feels that creating awareness and helping change the attitudes is important as this will perhaps sow the positive seeds for future generations".



## Save Your Stuff! Save the Date! By Connie Steinheimer

The IGU Committee is sponsoring another garage sale scheduled for October 5th.



The IGU Committee needs your treasures to sell. However, you don't have to wait until then to do your fall closet and cupboard clean out. If you have "stuff" for the sale you can drop it off at Ethan Allen between 9 and 4 Monday thru Saturday or call to make arrangements for an off time drop off at the warehouse at 826-1722. Jeanne Baxter will hold everything until the sale.

We also need your help working and preparing for the sale. Please save Friday evening October 4 after work for set-up, early bird shopping, and margaritas; and Saturday, October 5 for the sale.

Sign ups will be coming to a meeting soon.

# A Behind-the-Scenes View at Soroptimist Development Retreat



Delegate Bev Perkins, left, and President-Elect Pam Sutton.



Representing SITM's finances at SDR, from left, were Treasurer Kay Dunham, President Margie Hermanson and Treasurer Vicki Schultz.



Past Governor Sue Camp and President Margie Hermanson take a break with SNR Governor-Elect Jackie De Martini.



Penney Leezy was among the vendors at SDR selling her beautiful jewelry.

## Get Ready to Soar with Sales at the Reno Air Races



Air Races Queens Niki Champ, Kay Dunham and Diana Dillon conducted a fun challenge between tables at the August 1 meeting. Choosing their own names by tables, the members answered a series of questions about present and past Reno Air Races. The "Bombers" won the day with the most correct answers.



The committee has 238 six-hour shifts to fill during the September 8-15<sup>th</sup> sales at the RARA merchandise booth. At last count slots were available for Sunday, September 8 set-up and Thursday through Sunday, September 12-15 sales. Morning shifts run from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; afternoon shifts are from noon to 6 p.m., or close.

Members are needed to work three shifts to fill the slots, so why not bring your family and friends and co-workers with you to help lessen the load. Kay is making 72 dozen cookies for the event.



Doreen Rogers, recently retired from U.S. Bank, left, presents a check to Pam Robinson for SITM's annual Thanks to Youth program. U.S. Bank is a long-time supporter of the youth program.



Cindy Burk and her mom, Wanda Beeman, joined the club meeting on August 1. In the past, Cindy has brought her mom to meetings when she visited, but now Wanda has moved to Reno from San Diego. Perhaps we will see more of her at meetings and events.

## SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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Also contributing to this issue  
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 Doreen Rogers

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 . . .

## Women's Opportunity Awards



The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards program assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

### Quick Facts

- Each year, more than \$1.5 million is disbursed through cash awards at various levels of the organization.
- Many recipients have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse.
- The awards may be used to offset any costs associated with efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare and transportation.