

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

A New Year, New Beginnings with President Pam

I sit here in front of the computer, strong coffee close by, puppy at my feet. Draped near the monitor is a cheerful multicolor ring of paper dolls holding hands – a reminder of the recent installation that allows me to provide a greater level of service to SITM than I have in the past. Our new board is a robust blend of both veteran and newer members. To me, this illustrates the strength of our club, where experience and knowledge combine with fresh ideas and new possibilities for SITM to continue our mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

I feel a lot of enthusiasm and optimism within our membership.



Isabelle (Belle) Somsin

A message from Ploypun Pihakane: I would like to introduce our new bundle of joy baby Isabelle (Belle) Somsin to SITM. She was born on Monday, July 7 and shares the same birthday with her dad. Isabelle weighed 7.75 pounds and is .20 inches. She is looking forward to see all SITM ladies as soon as her immune system is strong enough.



President-Elect Vivian Ruiz, left, and President Pam Sutton performing the duties of their offices at SITM's first meeting of the new club year, July 10

Committees are busy planning for the new year, we have three new members joining soon and we're starting to gear up for our big fundraiser at the Air Races.

We're in a good place. Our finances are strong, our programs and activities provide benefit to the community and beyond. But, as I mentioned at the installation, to continue to be effective, we need to remain relevant in a changing world. As a club, it's our responsibility to identify, analyze and monitor issues affecting women and kids, and to pick the areas where we can best apply our resources and our expertise.

Needs are abundant, but our time is not. And we need to be very selective and focused so we get the best outcomes possible for our effort – while doing the things that have value and enjoyment for us as individuals. To that end, I hope

everyone will participate in the "Advance" offsite on August 23 – if not in person then by completing the questionnaire that will be coming out prior. Your thoughts and ideas are important – please share them!

I'm very much looking forward to this year and know that together, we can do so much!

President Pam Sutton



Outgoing President Margie Hermanson, left, presents Incoming President Pam Sutton with the club's President's Pin.

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A New Year; New Officers

President Pam Sutton and the 2014-15 SITM Officers, Directors and Delegates were installed at the June 26 meeting. Life members Laurie Chappelle, Meg Price, and Doris Phelps acted as Installing Officers utilizing fresh herbs to create a garden for Pam and her officers. President Pam's theme for the year is: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." SITM Past Presidents Becky Moody, Patty Downs and Faye I. Andersen each gave a quick remembrance of the support they received during their terms leading the club.

President	Pam Sutton
President-Elect.....	Vivian Ruiz
VP-Service	Michelle Jones
VP technical.....	Jennifer Burnitt
Corresponding Secretary	Anna McArdle
Recording Secretary	Georgia Baker
General Fund Treasurer.....	Vicki Schultz
Service Fund Treasurer	Kay Dunham
Delegate.....	Bev Perkins
Alternate Delegate	Enid Oliver
Director 2 Years.....	Margie Hermanson
Director 1 Year.....	Becky Moody
Parliamentarian	Patty Doty



Installing officer Laurie Chappelle, at podium, and Installing Officer Meg Price, at right, present President Pam, center, with the herb marjoram, symbolizing joy and happiness.



Doris Phelps, foreground, "plants" President Pam's garden.



President Pam Sutton, surrounded by her 2014-15 Officers, Directors and Delegates.



Installing Officers with President Pam, from left, Doris Phelps, Meg Price, Pam and Laurie Chappelle.

Calendar

- July 24 – Service Committee discussions
- July 23-26 – SIA 43rd Biennial Convention, Vancouver, BC
- July 31 – DARK for Hot August Nights
- August 7 – Celebration of Georgia Baker's Wedding; details TBD
- August 12 – Board Meeting, Disability Resources
- August 14 – Business Meeting
- August 23 – SITM "Advance" offsite, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., location TBD

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Celebrating a Successful Club Year

Annually, SITM conducts its Year in Review, celebrating all of the projects, the good times and hard work of members to make the club a vibrant and on-going volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls.

The dedicated members of the Photo/Scrapbook Committee produce a Power Point pictorial presentation of the year and gift a scrapbook of the year's activities to the out-going president.

The occasion is also highlighted by the presentation of the club's Ceec Abrahams Award to an outstanding member. And in recent years, other outstanding members are honored with membership in the SIA Laurel Society.



*Michelle Jones Surprised
with Ceec Abrahams Award*

Michelle Jones was named the 2013-14 Ceec Abrahams Award recipient for the 2013-14 year. She was surprised at the June 19 meeting by members of her family, from left, her sister Khrystal, husband Quentin and son Braden. Michelle joined SITM in 2002 and has served as Treasurer, VP/Service and coordinated numerous committees. She is currently serving as VP/Service for 2014-15. The Ceec Abrahams Award is presented to an "every member" who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in her support of the club and its activities. Michelle was presented with the silver bowl trophy filled with flowers, upon which her name will be engraved.

New Laurel Society Members, Cindy and Margie

Member Cindy Burk, center, was surprised at the Year in Review meeting with a gift of Laurel Society membership and pin. She was further surprised by her family, who kept the honor secret and joined her at lunch for the presentation. From left are: Cindy's co-worker Susie Kertson; Cindy's Mom Wanda Beeman, a frequent visitor; Cindy; husband Nelson; and Cindy's boss, Elaine Szero from Arizona, who happened to be in town. Congratulations Cindy.

Although it wasn't a surprise, President Margie Hermanson was presented with a Laurel Society membership and pin at the same meeting as one more "thank you" and appreciation for leading our club during the 2013-14 year. Congratulations Margie.

A Year of Remembrances

Scrapbook Committee Coordinator Doreen Rogers, right, presented President Margie Hermanson with a remembrance of her club year at our annual Year in Review Meeting.



From Sand and Sun to Snow and Desert

By Faye I. Andersen

Member Penney Leezy may just win the prize among members for the greatest number of uncles, aunts and cousins, rivaling Shirley George's 64 cousins (member feature April 2014). Penney's mother was one of 18 children. The family was so large that in 1925 the family was awarded special recognition from the Governor of California, along with a Star Car, for having the largest family in the state.

Her grandparents were from the Azores. Portugal and emigrated to Boston, where they had nine children, and later moved to California, where they had another nine children.

Just imagine the big summer family reunions at Folsom Lake or Elk Grove Park.

But when it comes to Penney's parents, their family included just Penney and her sister Linda, who were raised on a chicken ranch in Fair Oaks, California, one of three operated by her father's family.

Penney is professionally trained in medical and forensic radiology. She worked at Scripps Memorial Hospital for many years as part of the Heart Cath team, Angiography, CTs and eventually as Assistant Director of Radiology.

She said, "During my 'spare time', I traveled throughout the U.S. teaching mammography to radiology students." With the rest of her "spare time", she volunteered at the American Cancer Society teaching self-breast exams and headed the society's campaign for uninsured women to obtain free mammograms.

She met husband George in San Diego and they were married on Mo'orea Island, Tahiti, in a traditional tribal wedding. "George is an American Indian, Choctaw, and wanted a tribal wedding," she explained. They have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. George has a daughter who lives in Idaho and has provided them with three granddaughters, plus an anticipated great grandchild in February 2015.

Their road to Reno took them through Truckee, California where they built their own home in Tahoe Donner. "From sand and sun to snow in Truckee; what a

difference. We hired only one person to help George. I helped as much as I could," she said. Penney has lots of building stories to tell.

Penney and George moved to Sparks in 2001 where she jumped into the Newcomers Club of Reno-Sparks. She's held board positions and served as President in 2007.



Penney and beloved friends Annie and Rascal.

Although both are retired, Penney started her Custom Design Jewelry business and is known for the beautiful jewelry that is a favorite of many Soroptimists. She is a perennial vender in the sales room at Sierra Nevada Region conferences and events. Many members have met her sister, Linda Lee Webber from Folsom, who helps Penney with her sales.

"I enjoy creating and making the designs with stones and components from around the world," Penney said. Her sales take her to many events in Reno-Sparks and California. One that she is particularly fond of participating in is the Arts & Flowers fundraiser and several of her pieces can be found at the Nevada Museum of Art gift shop.

It was her jewelry business that led her to Soroptimist. She was a vender at the July Soroptimist Development Retreat several years ago where she met Jo Ann Roberts. Curious about the organization, Jo Ann invited Penney to an SITM lunch meeting. She's been a member ever since.

"I only wish I had found Soroptimist a decade ago," Penney admits. "I have an excellent role model with Jo Ann Roberts as my sponsor."



Penney and George Leezy

July Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

The 2014-15 SITM Board held its first meeting July 15, followed by the club's first Business Meeting, attended by Sierra Nevada Region Governor Jackie DeMartini and Governor-Elect Vicki Watson.

SITM "Advance" Offsite Set for August 23

Save the date and join SITM members in a club "Advance" offsite" on Saturday, August 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Location TBA depending on the number of attendees. Lunch will be provided at no cost to members. The Board recommended and the membership approved an expenditure of \$300 to hire Katy Simon, former member and retired Washoe County Manager, to facilitate the day's discussion. Funds are to come from the General Fund discretionary account.

Reno Air Races Needs Volunteers

Your help is needed to work at the Reno Air Races September 7-14. Recruit your family members, friends and co-workers to work one or more approximate four-hour shifts selling RARA merchandise. Sign-ups will be circulating at upcoming club meetings.

Bankers: Give Us Your Interest Rates

SITM would like to receive information on interest rates available for a \$30,000 one-year Certificate of Deposit beginning approximately September 16, 2014. The interest rate that the bank or financial institution will pay should be submitted in writing and submitted to Enid Oliver or Barbara Atwell by Monday September 1, 2014 at 5 pm.

SITM Website to Get New Look

The Public Awareness Committee proposed and the membership approved a contract with To Eleven Mobile to build a website for SITM to replace the existing website at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Last year the membership approved an expenditure of \$1,500 for a new website. Beyond the cost of creating the new website, the additional money is being reserved for additional plug-ins and widgets.

Time to Submit Happy Dollar Requests

Several months are still available for designation of Happy Dollars. Committees and members interested in applying for Happy Dollars for specific organizations or causes should contact President Pam Surton and/or submit a request form.

June Happy Dollars Go to the Dogs

A total of \$468 in June Happy Dollars were raised for President Margie Hermanson's choice of the Canine Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary. Happy Dollars for the month of July are designated for Awaken, rescuing women and children from human trafficking.

Time to Party August 7

The Board approved a motion by the hospitality committee to hold a "happy" party for Georgia Baker to celebrate her wedding to Jon Flambures. Date is August 7, at a location TBD.

Atlantis Contract Renewed

The club has signed a contract to remain at the Atlantis for another year. The cost of the weekly lunch remains \$17.

Membership Update

The following members were granted leaves of absence: Jennifer Thompson through August 15 for work reasons; Jean Neddenriep through August for medical reasons; Jennifer Crowe Clark through September 11 for work; Lynn Robins through September for medical reasons; and Sue Camp through December for health reasons.



Eileen Fuller, Dot Watts and Paula Ringkob sign up for new year committees at a June meeting.



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Doris Phelps

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Also contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts

Pam Sutton

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 . . .

Building the future we want for women & girls

SI delivers Post-2015 vision to UN Economic and Social Council

7/10/14

Soroptimist International is setting out its vision for the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the key annual meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), taking place in New York this week. In official written and oral interventions to ECOSOC's High Level Segment, SI identifies five key priority areas for the post-2015 agenda to improve the lives of women and girls, and societies as a whole.

"These areas are based on the challenges we have identified in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework and implementation, and reflect the voices of women and girls at grassroots level worldwide" explains SI in its oral statement. "In short, they are: improving data collection, working with men and boys as allies to achieve gender equality, addressing violence against women, developing accountability mechanisms, and the critical importance of gender-responsive budgeting".

For more information, go to www.soroptimistinternational.org



