

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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September 2014

www.sitmnev.org

SITM Enters a Busy Time of Fall Activities

I just walked in the door after my second day out at the Air Races. In addition to many Soroptimists, there were the usual husbands, friends and other volunteers keeping lines moving, helping people choose what to buy (the men are pretty clueless), fluffing and puffing, and generally working retail as if they knew what they were doing. Our effort provides needed funding for many SITM service programs and every hour put in by every person helps. Thanks!

I was thrilled to see so much interest in the Advance planning meeting on August 23. Almost half of our members attended, with a range of SITM experience spanning new members to those with many, many years of service. This contributed to rich discussions and lots of ideas on

how to keep our club healthy and "future-focused". The desired outcome of this process is to increase our relevance, both within the community and with our membership. To maintain the momentum and provide the structure to proceed with transparency and accountability, the club approved the formation of a steering committee. This committee is headed by Doris Phelps, who brings many years of business management and planning experience to the Advance process. While participation in the ongoing process is optional, I hope many of you will find some time in the nooks and crannies of your busy days to help. Remember – "together we can do so much"!

Now, as we move into fall, we have much to look forward to. Once again we will be holding a candidate's forum so we can get a feel for who's running and what the issues are. It's on October 2 during our usual lunch meeting. Please



The happy early crew, from left, Penney Leezy, Bev Perkins, Anna McArdle, Margie Hermanson, Marilyn Pearson and Dot Watts.

invite anyone you think would be interested in learning more about the candidates before the election. Then there's the semi-annual IGU garage sale a couple days later on October 4. And before you know it we'll be putting on those hats and masks for Halloween. So get outside now and enjoy the last weeks of warm weather.

President Pam



New member inductions were conducted at the September Business Meeting by Past President Jo Ann Roberts, far right. From left are Margie Hermanson; new member Harmony Hobbs, sponsored by Vivian Ruiz; and Susanna Money, to her left, sponsored by Jennifer Burnitt.

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Toiletries Drive this month

Throughout September, the Education-Youth Committee will be collecting toiletries for the Libby Booth Hygiene Closer. If you'd like to donate, please bring full-sized soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, hair brushes and combs to any Thursday meeting.



Fall District Meeting News

Saturday, October 25
District V Fall Meeting
Truckee, California

Watch for the "Call to Meeting" with further details



Mark Foree, General Manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority spoke about water supplies and the current drought at the August 21 meeting.

Calendar

- September 18 – Presented by the Health Committee
- September 25 -- Sara Cunningham, Principal of Libby Booth Elementary School and Vanesa Olivera, Site Coordinator for Communities in Schools
- October 2 – Candidates Forum
- October 7 – Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Disability Resources
- October 9 – Business Meeting, Noon, Atlantis
- October 16 – Public Awareness Committee
- October 25 – District V Fall Meeting, Truckee

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Save the date!
Start gathering your treasures!
It is Garage Sale season!



The IGU Committee is sponsoring our 29th semiannual garage sale on October 3rd & 4th.

If you already have treasures set aside, there are several options for storing them until the sale.

1. You can drop them off at the Ethan Allen warehouse between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday,
2. You can call the store at 826.1722 to make arrangements for drop off.
3. You can check with the receptionist in the main store anytime Monday through Sunday during store hours which are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

And keep in mind that Ethan Allen will take donations throughout the year!

We will also be setting up the boutique section for higher end clothing and items. Please mark these items if you are dropping them off at Ethan Allen.

And, we need members and their friends and family to volunteer at the sale, so block your calendar for Friday afternoon on October 3 for set up, early bird treasure finds, and snacks. We also need sales associates on Saturday during the sale. Snacks, of course, provided.

SITM ADVANCE Summary

SITM held a Strategic ADVANCE (why retreat – let's move forward) on August 23 at President Pam Sutton's lovely home. Twenty-nine members participated and reviewed the club's strengths and weaknesses, listed issues facing the club, and crafted four goals to work on in the coming year. The day was facilitated by former member Katy Simon, the retired Washoe County Manager. After a working morning session, members were treated to a salads and wraps luncheon coordinated by Past President Doris Phelps.

President Pam, assisted by Past President Doris recapped the day's discussion at the September 4 regular meeting. Copies of the results from the advance survey of members, the summary, and the SWOT analysis and issues have been sent to members, but if you need a copy, contact President Pam.

Here are the strategic issues and their goals.

Strategic Issue 1: **MEMBERSHIP** (Lead: Membership Committee)

- Goal 1.1: Increase new members by 10% while increasing diversity of age, ethnicity and profession
- Goal 1.2: Retain 100% of new members for at least 3 years

Strategic Issue 2: **PROJECT EVALUATION AND DECISION-MAKING** (Lead: President Pam and appointed team -- President Pam's Posse)

- Goal 2.1: Establish criteria for program/project evaluation and evaluate every current program/project based on those criteria (to include current relevance) during the 2014-15 club year

Strategic Issue 3: **FUNDRAISING** (Lead: President-elect Vivian and VP's)

- Goal 3.1: Evaluate and make recommendations regarding current fundraising efforts utilizing criteria established in Goal 2.1 during 2014-15 club year
- Goal 3.2: Develop a contingency plan for what happens after the Air Races are no longer viable before planning for Air Races 2015 needs to occur

Strategic Issue 4: **PUBLIC AWARENESS** (Lead: Public Awareness Committee)

- Goal 4.1: Increase Public Awareness as measured by:
 - # of mentions in media
 - # of likes on Facebook
 - # of web clicks

Process:

- President Pam will bring these draft issues and goals back to the entire club for endorsement
- By November 1, 2014, lead members/committees will have developed action plans, measures and targets for the goals and all SITM members will have voted to adopt the full Strategic Plan.



President Pam Sutton, foreground, makes a point, as facilitator Katy Simon observes in the background.



Getting ready for lunch, counter clockwise from right are Barbara Atwell, Enid Oliver, Millie Mitchell, Vicki Schultz, Teresa Mentzer and Dor Watts.

Past President Doris Phelps and President Pam Sutton, presented a recap of the Advance at the September 4 regular meeting.



Ana Nadimi, Kay Dunham, Dor Watts and Susanna Money break from their discussion long enough for a photo.

Early Snaps of Life at the Air Races



Air Race volunteers, from left, David White, Bobby Martin and Bert Somsin (Ploypun's husband).



Steve Hibbs, Liza Chapen's "sweetie", Liza and Doris Phelps.

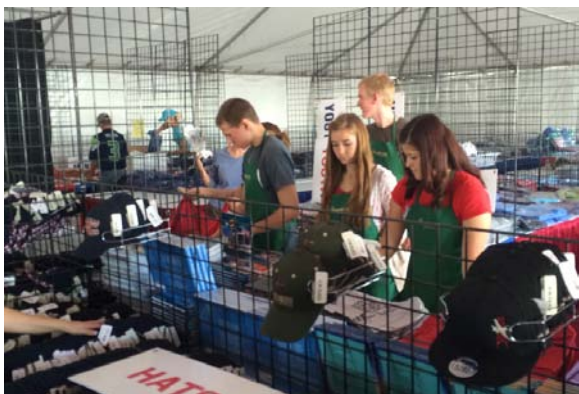


Wendi Dennis selling a shirt to Georgia Baker.



Mich Glazier and her new friend from Norway.

Dedicated volunteers are critical to our Air Race merchandise sales.



Putting in their shift are, from left, Sande Reimers-McLaughlin, Michelle Jones, her sister Crystal and Niki Ewing.



September Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new members Harmony Hobbs and Susanna Money, who were inducted at the September Business Meeting. Harmony works for UPS and was sponsored by Vivian Ruiz. Susanna is retired from ownership of the Birkenstock store and was sponsored by Jennifer Burnitt. Margie Hermanson stood in for Jennifer at the meeting. Welcome to Susanna and Harmony.

Follow-up to Strategic Planning Advance

Upon recommendation of the board and approval by the membership, an ad hoc steering committee, coordinated by Doris Phelps, to be joined by two other members, has been empaneled to address issues identified at the recent Strategic Planning Advance.

A second motion was passed to establish the initial four areas of inquiry for the committee to study are: Membership, Program Evaluation, Fundraising and Public Awareness.

Sue Camp Designated Funds

SITM's dear passed member Sue Camp's obituary appeared in the newspaper recently and the family identified SITM as a designee for donations in lieu of flowers. The board recommended and the membership passed a motion to designate any funds received to the club's women's scholarships and be referred to the Education-Women Committee.

Dark Days During Air Races

A third motion was brought to the board to consider declaring SITM "Dark" during future weeks of the Air Races, since it is so hard to get a quorum. The motion was referred to the Finance/Bylaws Committee for further investigation.

Finances on Hold for a Month

There were no Service or General Fund Treasurers' reports this month because of work schedules at the Air Races. The August Treasurers' reports will be made at the October Board/Business Meetings.

Membership Update

The Board approved a leave of absence for Lynn Catrow through January 8, 2015, for work reasons; and extended Jennifer Thompson's leave until October 31.

Bert Somsin and Ploypun Pihakane brought Belle to the September 4 meeting for a visit. Belle arrived this past June.



Birthday wishes to "twins" Bev Perkins and Eileen Fuller. Both were born on September 18.

Members were overjoyed to see Jan Veys, right, at the September 4 meeting. She's greeted here by Penney Leezy.



Mr. & Mrs. Jon Flambures, Congratulations to Georgia and Jon, who married on August 29.

Another Seattle Transplant Makes it to Reno and Embraces Soroptimist

By Doris Phelps

Joan Griswold joined SITM during 2013-14 and loves her association with SITM. Joan loves the Scrapbook Committee – it's fun, creative and filled with such wonderful people! "I learned about Soroptimist from Doris Phelps. Doris had worked for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada for many years. Shortly after I was hired last year, one of my Food Bank colleagues asked if I would like to have lunch with Doris and I answered "how about today?" Doris has been such a great friend to the community and I am very proud she asked me to join."

"Although I don't belong to another volunteer organization, I frequently work with others at the Food Bank. I believe as Soroptimists, we can hold our heads high knowing when it comes to the dedication of our members and the many ways we give back to the community, we're hard to beat."

Joan is among several of our club members who have a relationship with the great Pacific Northwest. She was raised in Seattle and graduated from Roosevelt High School, where her favorite subject was classical literature. Those long, rainy winter days were perfect for lots of serious reading! She shares this favorite memory of growing up with her younger brother David. "When we were in elementary school, my Mom gave us the Betty Crocker Kids Cookbook. Unfortunately, my brother and I thought of the instructions as 'suggestions' that could be ignored. Our poor parents sat

through some pretty awful meals. Probably our worst was corn dogs (don't ask). It was so bad that grace went something like this, 'We pray, oh Lord, for forgiveness for this meal.' I've learned to cook a little better now."

Joan has worked in sales and marketing her entire career. About six years ago she decided to use that experience in the nonprofit world helping people. Although plenty of folks in for-profit businesses are helping people all the time, she adds. "As the Community Corporate

Engagement Manager (think community liaison) for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, I speak to and work with community groups and businesses about hunger in our community and discuss ways to become involved. For some, it's volunteering and for others it's workplace giving. One organization might hold a food drive while another will grant-fund our mobile pantry. Every day is different! With one out of four children in our community facing hunger, the support is very much appreciated."

Joan and her partner Gail have been together for 32 years and they moved to Reno to be closer to family. They love it here! In her spare time, Joan enjoys the great outdoors – camping and hiking are her favorites although sitting on a beach in Hawaii may top even that. Joan and Gail have a new dog, Pepe. Pepe is a border collie adopted from the ASPCA. They brought her home and then read about the breed. What a hoot! Needless to say, they are now on the run trying to keep up with their much smarter and more energetic (more than they are, she says) dog.



Joan at work at the Food Bank next to a display of empty bowls acknowledging significant gifts and donors, created by local artist Joe Winter.



Joan, right, and her partner Gail.



Napa Sonoma Wine Walk & Social

SITM members, family and friends joined together for a leisurely stroll on Saturday afternoon, August 30 during a Napa-Sonoma Wine Walk and Social at Plumgate. It was an afternoon of wine tasting, food sampling, shopping and camaraderie, hosted by the Membership Committee.



Eileen Fuller, Jennifer Burnitt and Enid Oliver



Susanna Money, Jennifer Burnitt and Teri Tomsick



From left, Margie Hermanson, Jennifer Burnitt, Susanna Money, Teri Tomsick and Betty Hancock



Jennifer and husband Michael Burnitt



SITM Expedition to Burning Man



Norma Webster, Jeanne Baxter, Cindy & Nelson Burk.



Norma Webster, Jeanne Baxter, Paula Ringkob and Connie Steinheimer on the playa.



The Embrace, one of the art sculptures at Burning Man.

A family affair on the bus to Burning Man, from left, Patti Dory's parents, Patti and sister Linda Dory.

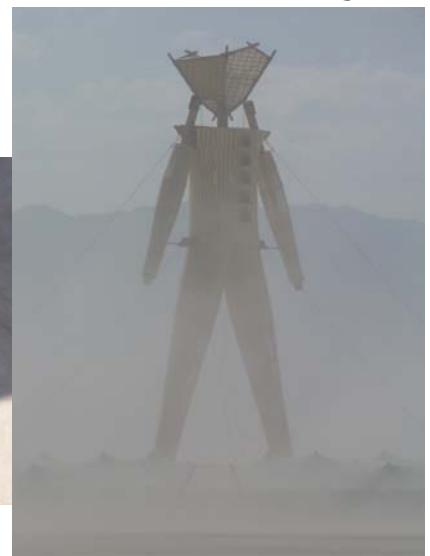
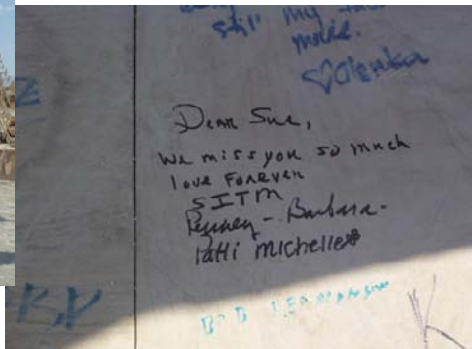


He was Dusty Man, before he was Burning Man.



The Temple was a place to write and dedicate a note to those we have lost. The Temple was burned on Sunday, with all in attendance in complete silence.

The message written at The Temple by members to Sue Camp.



SITM Update

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Also contributing to this issue

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Jennifer Burnitt

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 . . .

Save the date- October 23rd IGU Presents “One Billion Rise”

On October 23rd, come hear stories about what Soroptimists are doing across the globe to end violence against women and girls, how they are rising for justice and promoting gender equality at IGU's lunch meeting. Begin to imagine what Rising for Justice looks like for you, our community, our city and our country. This is a meeting you don't want to miss and a great meeting to bring guests too.

