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SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

President Patti Doty

www.sitmnv.org

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2010

President's Message

I put my dog Harry to sleep this morning. He was very ill and he died in my arms. As I held him I thought, as we all might do, about life and death, about coming and going. Harry was a good dog. He taught me to be a dog person and, let's face it, dog people are nice people. He graced my life. So I thought about life, and how we as Soroptimists grace the lives of others.

We smile and people smile back, and for a moment our lives are lighter. We offer scholarships and women become educated and lift themselves and their families a little higher. We bring in healthy snacks and kids in our community have something to warm their tum-

mies and, at least at lunchtime, feel like they fit in. We educate ourselves on trafficking and relationship



violence and the needs of our community and become instruments for good and not evil. We suffer through campaign rhetoric and cast our votes well. We grace lives with our presence. We can do more. Between wiping my eyes and blowing my nose, I think about these things.

Myla Kabat-Zinn says, "Each difficult moment has the potential to open my eyes and open my heart."

In autumn the earth prepares for her winter sleep. Soon the trees will stand bare and the flowers disappear and my tears will flow less often. John Briere, my favorite psychologist, says, "Everyone's doing the best they can. Just remember, we're all bozos on the bus together." When the leaves turn and the wind blows I will remember Harry, my dog who sniffed all dogs equally, and remind myself that I can do no less. Let's be bozos on the bus together. Consider the possibility!

Answers to SOLT Quiz (from last issue)

1. A Secretarial School
2. Philadelphia
3. Cathy Standiford
4. Alice Wells
5. Women's Opportunity Award
6. Jeannie Baxter
7. 9
8. 5
9. \$1,000
10. Past Governor JoAnn Roberts, Past Governor Faye Andersen & Past Governor Sue Camp

Board Meeting by Past Governor Faye I. Andersen



**Board Meeting held
October 12, 2010**

Everyone is invited to attend board meetings and food is served. You also get credit for attendance. They are usually held the Tuesday before the second Thursday of the month.

Editor's Note: The November Board and Business Meeting dates have been moved by one week due to the November 11 Veteran's Day holiday. The November Board meeting will be held November 16 at Pam Robinson's office and the Business Meeting will be held on November 18 at the Atlantis. The club will be dark for Thanksgiving, November 25.

Welcome New Member

Welcome to new member Lisa Riley who was inducted at the October Business Meeting. Lisa is the Director of Planned Giving for UNR. She was sponsored by Vicki Schultz. Welcome Lisa.

Another Garage Sale Success

The IGU Committee's October 2 garage sale was another smashing success with an overflow amount of donations and a net of \$2,687 in sales. Twenty-eight members, plus six family members and friends worked a total of 212 hours over the course of Friday night set-up and Saturday sales.

Proceeds benefit SITM's project to provide tuition and dormitory housing for girls to attend school in Thulipokhari, Nepal.

Once again, members from Ridge House appeared in a swarm on Saturday afternoon to haul away the leftovers and clean up Judge

Connie Steinheimers' garage, driveway and cul de sac. Ridge House is a transitional shelter and program to help former prisoners acclimate back into civilian life. They operate their own thrift store and our leftover items also help clients outfit their own homes when they leave the shelter.

Air Race Preliminary Totals Revealed

Co-coordinator of the Air Races Committee Diana Dillon reported at the October Business Meeting they expect net proceeds from working the merchandise sales booth at the Air Races, along with calendar and art sales should garner SITM about \$12,500. She said the total number of member, family and friends volunteered to work at the races was about the same as last year. A more complete report will be available at the November Business Meeting. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for this annual fundraising project.

Welcome a New Club to the Sierra Nevada Region

A new Soroptimist Club is joining the Sierra Nevada Region. SI of the American River will be chartered on October 27 in Auburn, California. SI/Historic Auburn is the chartering club and will host a dinner at Max's Restaurant in Auburn at a cost of \$27 per person. SITM is sending the new club a \$100 chartering gift to be used for club projects.

If you are interested in attending, see President Patti Doty or Corresponding Secretary Doreen Rogers for more information to RSVP.

Donate Snacks to FBNN

The Hospitality Committee will be collecting healthy snacks at the October 28 meeting to be donated to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. FBNN will use the snacks to "stuff" backpacks given to needy children. The committee suggests raisins, juice boxes and other easy-to-eat snacks that don't need refrigeration or special handling.

Attend the Region Board Meeting

Interested members should note the next SNR Board Meeting will be Sunday, October 24 at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Folsom. For more information, contact President Patti Doty. Region Board Meetings are open and all members are welcome to attend.

Membership Changes

Remaining on leave of absence through December are Marna Griffin for family travel and Sonya Hem Giroux following the birth of son Jack. The Board also approved a leave of absence for Joan Hughes through May for travel to Mexico.



New Collaboration between SIA & SIE by Past Governor Faye I. Andersen

Soroptimist International of the Americas has partnered with Soroptimist International of Europe to increase the scope and impact of the Soroptimist Disaster Grants. These grants seek to meet the special needs of women and girls before, during and after disasters.

This newly-partnered program builds on the success each federation has with their

own disaster-grant programs and through prior-partnered projects addressing specific disasters in Kenya, Haiti and Chile. By working together, SIA and SIE can increase awareness about the ways women and girls disproportionately suffer from disasters, as well as the impact of the grants.

Each federation will maintain separate disaster funds, but applications for grants will be reviewed by both federations and impact will be tracked and reported jointly. Applications for grants and donations from clubs within SIA will continue to be submitted to SIA headquarters.



A Message from SI President Hanne

Dear Soroptimist and Friends,

I hereby send you the article that SIWP Yvonne Simpson has made for the SI SWP magazine about our recent tour to China. I hope that you will find it interesting to read.

For me it is important that you are updated about the relationship between ACWF (All China Women's Federation) and Soroptimist International which now has been ongoing for 12 years through SI SWP.

For myself it was a real eye opener to visit China for the first time. My colleagues from the SI delegation told that big changes could be seen all over and it seemed to me, that the Chinese citizens we met were very open minded, interested in all kind of issues and to hear about our lives in other parts of the world and to exchange ideas.

I hope that also SI will take part officially in the further development of the contact with ACWF as it is a valuable platform for bringing soroptimism back to China when the government will legalize to let foreign

NGO's establish clubs in the country. Please remember that in the thirties there were about 5-6 clubs in the Eastern part of China.

I was really impressed to see how similar educated women in China are thinking compared to "our" way of thinking. All kind of issues could be discussed e.g. about human trafficking, ethnic minorities, HIV/Aids, private entrepreneurship, prevention, loyalty to regulations from the government, urbanization, love to the country etc., etc. But they also admit, that we "still have a long way to go".

I hope that we through the grants from the LTP can establish partnership about a project in a isolated village where women can be developed in making industry handicraft so the village can be attractive to the villagers and so that they need not go to bigger cities to fund luck and work.

As said in Yvonne's report, we visited a co-operative in a village which during the last six years had developed from a "threatened" village to a flourishing place where people want

to live grace to establishing a horse-riding center where tourists can rent horses for horse-riding in mountain area instead of going by car. The change in the village has resulted in color TV's in all 360 households, more children in the public school, 80 cars, mobile telephones to all and not least: proud and smiling faces!

I also hope that we can invite some from ACWF to be panelists in a workshop in Montreal. They are most interested in on going partnership with SI and feel that the contact is a "window to the world" outside China!

Thank you for your attention!

Hanne

Editor's Note: The article that President Hanne speaks of is included in this newsletter.



Building Partnerships in China by Yvonne Simpson

The ACWF (All-China Women's Federation) sent a delegation to the SISWP conference of clubs at the Gold Coast in April. From this came an invitation for SI President Hanne Jensbo, SISWP president Yvonne Simpson, past international president Jane Zimmerman, SISWP President Elect Siew Yong Gnanalingan, IPP Leigh Ellwood-Brown and past federation president Lorna Mead to attend the International Forum on Women in Urban Development and Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women on 17 September 2010, Shanghai, China. After the Forum the delegation was invited to visit ACWF projects.

The Forum had 300 attendees representing 50 countries, including regional organizations from Africa, United Nations and Experts from UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNISDR, UNIFEM and CEDAW and four international organizations (International Women's Forum, Women's Forum for the Economy and Society, World Family Organization and Soroptimist International). The declaration that resulted from the Forum was to reaffirm the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Development Goals with recom-

mendations for (abbreviated)

- a people-oriented approach to ensure gender equality, sustainability and harmony between people and the environment,
- a gender perspective to ensure equal participation of women in all aspects of urban development, particularly in decision making
- ensure all people benefit from urban development
- strengthen co-operation between governments and civil society including women's organizations

The addresses by leading advocates from the many countries present was an inspiration.

The afternoon consisted of a choice of three breakout sessions – Women in Leadership: ways beyond the glass ceiling; Women and Urbanization: mobility, transition and sustainable development and Challenging the gender roles: potentials, rights and responsibilities. SI President Hanne was a panelist on the latter session and gave examples of Soroptimist programmes with positive interaction with those attending the workshop. All workshops

had Soroptimist representation.

Following the Forum the delegation travelled to Kunming, Lijian and Suzhou and visited projects where ACWF had made a positive impact. These included

- Anti trafficking education for migrant women who were particularly vulnerable to labour abuse.
- Organic gardening where a woman who had lost her employment was supported to build a gardening business. She now employs others and serves as a role model in her community.
- Tourism Co-operative – where women have been encouraged to take leadership roles in the governance of the commune
- Orphanage especially for children following the earthquake. There are now education opportunities for 400 children – helping break the poverty cycle.
- Capacity building by supporting entrepreneurial women – in the manufacturing (high quality hand embroidery) and retail businesses. In each of the two projects we visited a capable woman was supported to

Continued on Page 5

Building Partnerships in China (continued)

Build a business which now trains and employees others.

- We also met with government officials and leading women in the cities we visited which gave both parties the opportunity to share challenges and successes. We were able to promote Soroptimist ideals and examples of our programme of service.

We were escorted by ACWF staff Hongju and Xu Yue who

ensured we were well informed and on schedule. We learned from each other and deepened the relationship. Our thanks go to them for their humor and care. In true capacity development we had the balance of a leader within ACWF and a much younger staff member with potential. Thanks also go to President Hanne for her advocacy of our ideals at every opportunity and the excellent work done in the past by

Jane, Leigh and Lorna and others that brought the relationship to this point. I had the privilege to thank our many hosts. PE Siew Yong will now understudy IPP Leigh for the rest of this biennium and take the lead role in 2012. We look forward with confidence that our relationship and partnership with ACWF will continue to grow and develop. It has a very strong foundation upon which to grow.



Happy Dollars *by Marilyn Pearson & Bev Perkins*

Dorothy Nash Holmes appreciated the fact that when they filmed the bit about her drug-dealing Spanish interpreter who had her sign in his front yard, they pointed the camera up so her campaign sign was out of the shot. Her husband ran a ½ marathon in San Jose and did a personal best. **Margie Hermanson** recent trip to Palm Springs/Palm Desert where the temp dropped from 111 to only 96 degrees while they were there; enjoyed her 45th high school class reunion. She is going to Quebec for two weeks to see the Autumn colors. **Diana Dillon** and **Kay Dunham** are exhausted after the Air Races but are still committed to the event. **Rosalie Henry** is using technology for a live video feed of her dogs when she's away from home. **Liz Lukasavich** thanks members for all their cards and says she is now cancer-free. **Tina Smith** will have 25 girls at her house for her daughter's bridal shower and then cook for 30 for the rehearsal dinner. **Peggy Smith** got her first colonoscopy recently, thanks to Niki. She's all clear. **Azadeh Nadimi** saw "America's Got Talent" tryouts in Reno recently. **Lynn Robbins** enjoyed the outhouse races at Lake Tahoe. **Joan Hughes** is off to her home in Mexico and will return to her Reno home in May. **Wendi Dennis** went horseback riding with her 71-year old mom recently. Wendy celebrated her 50th birthday. **Eileen Fuller's** balloon pilot was featured in the Sunday paper, and they were pleased to take up in their balloon a wounded soldier. Her grandson and friends helped crew the balloon. **Jean Neddenriep's** son, Kurt, was installed as Commander of his unit. Former member Terri Cox's husband died Tuesday, and her dad died on Thursday (Jean asked for prayer for former member Terri). **Enid Oliver** attended her 50th high school reunion. **Tracy Turner** dealt with Access to Healthcare Network as one of her first duties at the Community Foundation 3 years ago. Tracy also did an ALS bike ride through the wine country **Pam Sutton** also rode in the ALS event. She is going to a high school reunion in San Francisco and then to the Little Caymans for a vacation. **Kathryn Keever's** daughter is turning 14 and will start public school for the first time. **Mich Glazier** found her father's 1935 yearbook in a museum in Washington on a recent trip. **Carol Dinneen's** new granddaughter, Abigail Faith James, was born with a full head of hair and weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces. Carol lost her Springer dog so her daughter gave her a yellow lab puppy. **Sonya Giroux** brought new baby Jack to the Candidate Forum meeting. **Jo Ann Roberts** reported life member Shirley George sent thanks for the tributes. **Pam Robinson** for Access to Healthcare Network and Sherri, who got her to take her first mammogram and held her hand then, which was very much appreciated. Pam is now president of the Quest Counseling board. **Sue Smith's** daughter is moving from Las Vegas to work at the Washoe County School District. **Patty Down's** father is turning 83 and she took him to hear Buzz Aldrin speak. **Teresa Mentzer's** husband talked her into walking to the movies, even though her feet hurt, after the Air Races. She fell asleep with her clothes on as soon as she got home. **Becky Moody's** son got accepted to three colleges. **Marilyn Pearson's** son, Nathan, and his wife, Greta, are expecting the family's first grandchild in April. **Vicki Schultz** enjoyed a recent trip to Yosemite and wine tasting at Murphy's in California. **Linda Lamke's** daughter celebrated her 38th birthday. **Pam Robinson's** 16-year old grandson is on the varsity golf team. **Millie Mitchell's** nephew and his bride are moving back to Reno and are expecting a baby soon. **Doreen Rogers' two-year old** granddaughter had a birthday, as did her 36-year old son. **Niki Ewing** is not happy that her 2-½ year old twin boys have learned how to climb out of their cribs.

SITM Works the Air Races

Co-coordinators Kay and Diana



Break Time!!



Susan one of our newer members is finding out how much fun this is.



Aw, mom and daughter.



Yea, we're working!



Proposed SIA Bylaw Amendments by Past Governor Faye I. Andersen

At SIA’s Federation convention this summer, club delegates voted to propose changes to SIA’s Bylaws and Procedures, as well as adopt new resolutions. The changes now must be voted upon by clubs within the federation. SITM members will vote at the November Business Meeting.

The proposed Amendments to SIA Bylaws include:

- Movement of several items from the Bylaws to Federation Procedures in order to allow the SIA Board to make changes more quickly.
- Amendments to the SI Constitution by clubs or regions would be eliminated and would have to

come from the SIA Board of Directors.

- The Soroptimist Associate membership type would be eliminated.
- Federation Board meetings could be limited to two annually from three.
- The reference to the six programs of service would be removed to reflect the changes adopted by SI in favor of a program focus and the adoption of a mission to transform the lives of women and girls.
- The name of the Fund Development Council is proposed to be changed to the Fundraising Council.

The proposed Amendments to Resolutions include:

- To adopt a new resolution against the prostitution of women and girls;
- Reaffirming a 2000 resolution encouraging women to vote;
- Reaffirming a 2000 resolution encouraging ethnic diversification of Soroptimist membership.

So now you know that it was not all fun and games in San Francisco. We did do some work....

A complete listing can be found on the SIA Website at: http://www.soroptimist.org/members/fedinfo/fed_info.html

Go to www.soroptimist.org; Members Area; Federation Information; Governance Documents; Proposed 2010 Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions.

A Little Bit of SOLT

You are all getting so knowledgeable that it is getting tougher to come up with questions but here goes:

1. Where is the SI headquarters located?
2. Who was the first President of Soroptimist?
3. What federation is our current SI President Elect from?
4. Name our current Region Treasurer.
5. Who hosted the District III Fall Meeting?
6. What was just approved as our region project?
7. Where will the 2011 SI Convention be held?
8. Where will the 2011 SIA Leadership Training be held?
9. Name our Club President Elect
10. What club started Step 2?

District III Fall Meeting by Vivian Ruiz

Every great meeting starts with a joke so you shouldn't be surprised that the Sierra Nevada Region's District III First Fall meeting held on Saturday, October 9th in Susanville, California would begin any other way. Two Blond hunters were walking through the woods, when they came upon some tracks. The first hunter says that they looked like deer tracks. The second hunter says that they looked like elk tracks. They continued to argue until they were hit by a train

With all jokes aside, it was back to business as usual. Debbie McMillin, District III Director called the meeting to order. Here are some of the highlights presented at this meeting:

- Janice Labadie discussed The Renaissance Campaign and how this is beneficial to all club programs, membership, fundraising and public awareness.
- TIS or The International Soroptimist Magazine has become paperless and is now available online. The magazine is about peace and diversity and can be used as a valuable resource for club focus reports.
- To promote clubs and raise awareness, SIA has created a series of 5x7 promotional cards which can be used at member luncheons, mixers, etc. The cards feature compelling stories and entice readers to learn more about the organization by coming to the Soroptimist website.
- The Soroptimist 19th International Convention will be held in Montréal, Québec, Canada July 10 to 14, 2011. More information can be found on www.si-convention.org.
- A list of deadlines for Soroptimist awards were provided indicating

committee coordinators, address and due dates for all award applications.

- Each available club president or acting club representative was given outline of the new strategic plan in reference to ideas for club objectives and plans to implement in the future.
- Friendship Links were encouraged as a way of linking with other Clubs worldwide to share projects, offer support, and friendship. SITM was recognized for our friendship link with SI/Pune Metro East in India, which was listed in the Best for Women Magazine.

"We have been challenged". These were the words of Gina Grether, Sierra Nevada Region Treasurer, in regards to the Sierra Nevada's Region's Governor Kay Whitaker's Solar Cooker Project. Gina's goal is to get every club in the region to promote donations of the solar cookers. Beginning October 15th, each club will be rated by a percentage and the club who purchases the most kits per capita will win an entire club dinner cooked by the Executive Board. Gina mentioned this could possibly be used for a clubs upcoming installation. What do you think ladies.....are we up for the challenge?

Brenda Morrison, SI of Susanville President, and Kerri Cobb, SI of Susanville Member, discussed a variety of different projects currently supported by SI/Susanville and their community. Project Hope gives necklaces to Cancer Patients at the Infusion Centers as a Graduation Gift when they complete their chemo treatments. As many of you know, SITM has joined this project through our Beads for Strength project. Both clubs continue to work in collaboration in hopes to work with Reno area Infusion Centers in the future to expand and continue the project. SI/Susanville stated they held their first Awards "Dinner" and that it was very well

received. The highlight was the presentation of their "Teen Esteem" program. In January, SI/Susanville will be hosting a Teen Self Esteem workshop. They invited their guest speakers to speak to attendees today on this community collaborative event. One guest speaker was Elizabeth Darley with Lassen Family Services, a non-profit organization providing victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse with the resources and the prevention of further victimization. SI/S member Sherri McBride's daughter, Christi Myers is an RN and a sex educator for the Lassen County Teen Esteem program. She discussed resources available in the community and answered questions in regards to STD's, violence, and contraceptives. She stated that there is a huge disconnect in teens understanding what services are available to them. She has created business cards containing the list of numbers for health and pregnancy centers, crises hotline, and domestic violence to name a few in the Lassen County area. In addition, they will be offering a self defense course showing women how to protect themselves with simple techniques, which one involved the slight turn of your wrist. They invited three different instructors to share and demonstrate these valuable tools on how to stay safe, which were taught to members to practice on each other.

The credentials report indicated that there are a total of nine clubs in District III, which eight were represented. In attendance, there were two Region officers, one District Director, five Club Presidents, 35 members, which included 10 first time attendees, including myself, and five guests, with a grand total number of 48 attendees, which included two past Governors, Jo Ann Roberts and Sue Miller and nine attendees from SITM.

As you can see, this was very fun and informative meeting.

Help The Women of Darfur *by Faye I. Andersen*

You can help the women of Darfur with the donation of a Solar Cooker for just \$30. The Solar Cooker Project has been adopted as a region project by the Sierra Nevada Region and Governor Kay Whittaker has issued a challenge to clubs to see who can donate the most cookers. The winning club, by percentage of membership, will be treated to dinner prepared by the Sierra Nevada Region Officers.

The Solar Cooker Project was brought to the Region by Betsy Dart, of SITM's IGU Committee and members of SI/Fallon.

Refugees have fled the genocide in Darfur, a region of the Sudan and are currently in

Refugee camps in Chad. About 250,000 refugees live across the border from Sudan in Chad with 80% of them being women and children. The women must walk long distances from the refugee camps to gather firewood for cooking, exposing them to marauding bands of insurgents who rape or kill the women.

The solar cookers eliminate the need to burn wood, are environmentally friendly and keep children safe from burns. The program also has an income-generating aspect as raw materials are sent to the camps where refugee women are hired to assemble them and train the women on the cooker's

proper use.

Each lightweight, small and fairly inexpensive kit costs \$30. Included are two solar cookers, two pots, two pot holders, a year's supply of plastic bags and skills training for refugee women and girls.

You can donate a solar cooker for \$30, or go in with another member and split the cost; or donate any amount towards this project. Scarlet Ewy is collecting checks for this project. Let's show SNR Governor Kay that SITM is up for the challenge.



What You Missed

Friday Digest 9/23/10

The Ad Hoc Committee on Teen Dating Violence, presented information on the problems of teen dating violence which is much like Domestic Violence but involving boys and girls.

Friday Digest 9-30-2010

80 of us gathered for this year's Candidates' Forum, orchestrated by President-Elect Norma. We learned a lot from the 19 candidates for local office who spoke for 2 minutes each telling us how they might benefit women and girls.

Friday Digest 10-8-2010

We had a dash of SOLT yesterday, brought to us by those two veterans of Soroptimist Adelaide Goddard (aka Sue Camp) and Violet Richardson (aka Tracy Turner).

Friday Digest 10/15/10

We celebrated birthdays, inducted a wonderful new member, got our flu shots, gave out roses and heard about the money we made at Air Races, all while eating fried chicken and mashed potatoes with friends at the Atlantis. What could be better than that!

Friday Digest October 21, 2010

Our speaker was dynamic Chief Nicholas Sensley from Truckee, CA who spoke to us about human trafficking or, in his words, modern slavery, where individuals are kept in a "cage of the mind." Human trafficking is about capturing individuals through threat, fraud and other means and keeping them enslaved through fear and sometimes the belief that it is their own fault.



Violet Richardson & Adelaide Goddard

November 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Don't forget To Vote!	3	4 IGU	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Dark for Vet- eran's Day	12	13
14	15	16 Board Meeting Pam Robinson's	17	18 Business Meeting	19	20 Ad Hoc Com Dating Violence
21	22	23	24	25 Dark for Thanks- giving	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Human Rights/ Status of Women	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting Pam Robinson's	8	9 Business Meeting	10	11 Senior Gift Delivery
12	13	14	15	16 Hospitality	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Dark for Holidays	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Dark for Holidays	31	

More Air Race Photos



Eileen always finds a new friend.



Patty & Teresa are always having a good time!



And they think that I know what I am doing? Good luck on that!

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