



# SITM UPDATE - We are the World

*Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows*



Volume 05 — 09

December 2008 — January 2009



## President's Message — December 2008

*By Marilyn Pearson*

Happy New Year! I always love January, not because of the opportunity to start the next diet or exercise program but because it means the second half of our club year is here. I look forward to our wonderful Women Moving Forward event in February, our Women of Achievement award in March, the Sierra Nevada Region Conference in April, our Thanks to Youth event in May, and then it's June and we get ready for the next club year. Sprinkled in between all our major events are wonderful programs brought to us by our outstanding committees who've done a fabulous job this year.

I hope you'll reflect on what our club means to you and how you want to participate this year and next. Our Nominating Committee will be asking for members to run for various Board positions and I highly encourage you to consider this. Being on our club's Board is a unique opportunity and open to all members.

Thanks for all you do to make our club a continuing success story in this new year of financial uncertainty. Everything we do for women and girls in our community and the world is more important than ever.

## President-Elect's News — January 2009

*By Bev Perkins*

Just to keep everyone posted on our submissions for awards in the Sierra Nevada Region and Soroptimist International of the Americas, I thought I'd let you know that we are allowed four Celebrating Success entries to SIA. The four categories are Public Awareness, Membership, Program, and Fundraising.

We submitted Becky Moody's club brochure in the area of Public Awareness. For those of you who don't know, Becky created a wonderful brochure which was distributed at the AFP luncheon where Marilyn accepted our award for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraising Group. We still have lots of brochures left for members to give to friends and co-workers to let them know about our club.

In the area of Membership we submitted President Marilyn's Friday Digest. Of course, we all know how wonderful that is for our members.

Kay Dunham prepared a submission for me to submit in the area of Fundraising for our participation in the Air Races. Hopefully all of you know that this event funds our entire year's charitable giving, as well as funding our service committees.

In the Program category we submitted our 2008 Women Moving Forward event. We have begun hearing about our 2009 event and look forward to an even better event and lots of opportunities to serve women in transition in our community.



### *Board Members, 2008-09*

- Marilyn Pearson – President
- Bev Perkins – President-Elect
- Jo Ann Roberts – Parliamentarian
- Ann Steckline – VP Technical
- Jennifer Crowe – VP Service
- Becky Moody – Recording Secretary
- Dorothy Nash Holmes – Corresponding Secty.
- Norma Rash – Treasurer/General Fund
- Paula Ringkob – Treasurer/Service Fund
- Pam Robinson – Director, 1 year
- Gayle Baxley – Director, 2 years
- Marna Griffin – Delegate, 1 year
- Paula Leyba – Delegate, 2 years
- Patti Doty – Alt Delegate, 1 year
- Cheryl Powell – Alt Delegate, 2 years

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In addition to the Celebrating Success entries, I have submitted Becky Moody's club brochure to SNR for consideration as a Public Relations award (separate from Celebrating Success). With this newsletter we will have everything we need to send in a submission for SNR's Newsletter award, which will be announced at the next region conference in April. Also, Patty Downs has prepared something about her wonderful new member handbook for consideration by SNR for the region SOLT award.

I have received a few Program Focus reports from members for submission to SIA for our various programs and will be sending a bunch to Philadelphia soon.

We met our new Violet Richardson award winner at our January 22nd meeting and will be submitting her name to the region for their consideration. Regional winners are sent to SIA, so our winner could potentially do very well for her chosen charity.

Thanks to all the coordinators who helped me collect the information to make these submissions so our stellar club can get the recognition it deserves for the many things our members do for women (including us) in our community and around the world. Great job, ladies!

## News of Our Members - HAPPY DOLLARS!

By Gayle Baxley

Many of our members were planning great Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. **Deborah Albrecht** would be cooking for sixteen people for Thanksgiving. **Billie Mendiola** said she is not cooking, but will go out for Thanksgiving. **Margie Hermanson**, on the other hand, will be cooking for a large family get together. **Pam Robinson** would be going to Phoenix to visit her daughter. **Vicki Schultz** is going to be in Las Vegas for Thanksgiving, where they will celebrate her granddaughter's first birthday. All eight grandparents will be in attendance. **Linda Lamke** is having her family for Thanksgiving dinner, but husband will do the cooking. **Sue Camp** is going to Mexico, so no cooking for her. And lastly, **Cheryl Powell** will be in Dallas. **Kay Dunham's** granddaughter, Supryia, is going to Italy to study for a semester. Kay and family also traveled to Maryland to attend her brother's induction as Masonic President. Quite an honor. She gave her brother a gavel that had belonged to her father. **Jo Ann Roberts** informed us that the twins (her grandchildren) have turned five years of age. Just to show how things have changed, **Paula Ringkob** told us that her brother and sister are now dating people they met on the internet. **Cindy Burk** reminisced about a trip to Napa where she met a couple, who, when finding out that Cindy was from Reno, commented that Cindy must be a showgirl. Seems like a compliment to me.

**Bev Perkins** was very pleased with herself, when upon

returning from Thanksgiving hiatus, she could report that all her Christmas cards were out and she had finished her scarves for Bristlecone. Congratulations, Bev. **Doreen Rogers** reported that her daughter has graduated from UNR law school.

A number of our members had Happy Dollars for the Salvation Army gift delivery. **Pam Robinson** is off to Steamboat Springs for Christmas with her family. **Liz Lukasavich** will be cruising for Christmas. **Billie Mendiola** is really busy this season, with five birthdays in addition to Christmas and New Years. **Norma Rash** has returned from spending a week with her Dad. **Margie Hermanson** spent a week in San Francisco visiting grandchildren. Her 2 1/2 year old grandson has been taking swimming lessons and has advanced to the point where he can swim alone. **Eileen Fuller** has been going through the kitchen remodel blues. She is trying to get all the work done by the holidays, but it is slow going.

Well, the holidays are over, and **President Marilyn** is so happy that the cookies and fudge are all gone. **President-elect Bev** advised us that one benefit of gaining weight is that a mammogram does not hurt as much. **Norma Rash** had a crowd for New Years, serving 28 people cinnamon rolls and mimosas. By the way, it was a pajama party. **Eileen Fuller's** kitchen was completed for the holidays, but now her husband does not like the color of the grout, so it is all coming up again. Eileen also has pictures hanging at the Greater Nevada Credit Union, if you would like to view her work. **Tracy Turner** is attending a Thai cooking class. **Pam Robinson** reported a success story for our Women Moving Forward project. An attendee at our last event has turned her life around, and was able to use the support we provided to her as an additional incentive for the judge to reduce her felonies to misdemeanors. She is so grateful to our club for this support. **Carrie Porter** spent New Year's Day calling all the people who mean so much to her. The calls went all over the country, and she spent a very enjoyable day on the phone. It helps to have unlimited long distance for this. **Carol Dinneen** and family spent Christmas at Lake Tahoe and enjoyed the snow. Her young grandson wanted to help shovel snow, so they gave him an ice cream scoop. The holidays provided an opportunity for **Enid Oliver's** family to have a remembrance service for her father. Christmas was a little more dangerous for **Linda Lamke's** husband, Craig. He broke a tooth right in front, and Linda cannot wait for it to be repaired. **Teresa Mentzer** recommends the book "There is a Slight Chance I Might Be Going to Hell". She said it is a very funny read.

*"The ability to think straight, some knowledge of the past, some vision of the future, some skill to do useful service, some urge to fit that service into the well-being of the community - these are the most vital things education must try to produce."*

Virginia Crocheron Gildersleeve



## December/January Board and Business Updates

The new calendar year got off to a quick start with short **Board and Business Meetings in January**. But don't think SITM's Committees aren't busy preparing for upcoming awards, scholarships and workshops.

### Women Moving Forward Needs Your help

The **WMF Committee** is speeding forward to the February 21 seminar for women who are unemployed or wishing to update their skills. Members are encouraged to attend the all-day event at the El Dorado Hotel-Casino to mentor the attendees and assist with the workshops, if necessary.

The seminar will feature a "clothes closet" for attendees. Your gently used, clean, work-appropriate clothing is needed. If you can donate items, please make sure they are on hangers and marked with the size. **Marna Griffin and Dorothy Nash Holmes** will be collecting the clothes before each Thursday meeting. Their vehicles will be parked under the portico (or awning) over the back door of the Atlantis (which faces Kietzke Lane). You can just drop them off on your way into the meeting.

### Seeking Nominating Committee Members

Per SITM's Bylaws, a **Nominating Committee** will be selected in February to begin the task of assembling a slate of officers and board members for the 2009-2010 Club Year. **President Marilyn** has selected **Margie Hermanson** to coordinate the committee. At the **February Board Meeting**, the board will select a member. Rounding out the committee, the remaining member will be selected by the membership at the **February Business Meeting**.

### A Special WOA Award Granted

At the request of the **Education/Women Committee**, at the **December Business Meeting**, the membership has approved a special \$1,500 grant to **Zelda Byrd** to help her complete courses in the TMCC Cosmetology Program. According to **Co-Coordinator Pam Robinson**, **Zelda** fits the qualifications for the **Women's Opportunity Award**, as well as qualifications for a **Women Moving Forward Grant**.

### Committee Donations

At the December 4 meeting, the **Human Rights/Status of Women Committee** presented **Dr. Bruce Crawford** with a check for \$500 for his work with the International Organization of Women and Development. **Dr. Crawford** works with the IOWD and travels with medical missions to their clinic in Niger, Africa to work with women who need medical procedures to repair obstetric fistulae. The program recognized **SI President Margaret Lobo's December 10<sup>th</sup> President's Appeal Project** at the **Desta Mender Village** in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** which provides shelter and training for these women. A donation of \$500 in club budgeted funds is being donated to the **SI President's Appeal Project**.

The **Economic and Social Development Committee** has donated \$200 of their committee funds to the **Sierra Association** for **Foster Families** to help provide Christmas presents to some of the 1,200 children served by that agency.

### More Money Matters

**December Happy Dollars** of \$282 were doubled by the club match of \$282, for a combined total of \$564 for **SI President Margaret Lobo's December 10<sup>th</sup> President's Appeal Project** at the **Desta Mender Village** in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** which provides shelter and training for women suffering from obstetric fistulae.

**November Happy Dollars**, in the amount of \$300, plus a \$300 match from the club have been donated to **Quest Counseling and Consulting**, providing substance abuse treatment programs for adolescents.

The **Air Race Committee** has received a check for \$11,452.50 from the **Reno Air Racing Association** for club members' work at the **Air Races** this past September. Combined with calendar sales, net proceeds for this event is \$15,746.81

The **Women Moving Forward Committee** has made a grant of \$719 to **Celia Ransom**, one of last year's **WMF Seminar**, to continue her education.

### The Website is Ready

**Pam Sutton** has done it. The revamp of the **SITM Website** is complete. Check it out at <http://www.sitmnnv.org>. It contains public sections on "SITM Scholarships"; "Who We Are"; and "What We Do". There's a password-protected section for members only that contains information such as the roster, meeting minutes and financial reports. You'll need to sign-in to access the members section. If you have trouble signing in, contact Pam.

### Bylaw Change Affects Financial Review

The membership approved a change to the **Club Bylaws** that affects the club's annual "Financial Review" and the selection of a CPA to prevent a conflict of interest between the reviewer and current club officers. The change occurs on page 24, section B and now reads, "The selection of the CPA should exclude anyone who is a signer on the accounts."

### Membership Changes

The Board accepted the resignation of **Judie Henderson**, who is returning to school for a degree in social work. Welcome back to **Kelley Kordonowy, Jean Neddenriep, Pat Levy, Kimberly Rossiter** and **Vicki Butler**, who were on leave through December. Remaining on leave are **Kasey La Foon** through January for health reasons; **Michelle Jones** through February following the birth of her son; **Diane McDonald** through June, for work reasons; and **Karen Keister** through July for school. **Gayle Kmetovicz** and **Dawn Pontrelli** are both currently on leave for medical reasons.



## SIA Program Report Available

The Soroptimist International of the Americas **Program Impact Report 2007-2008** is now available as an attachment to this issue of **SITM Update**. The report describes the impact we had on women and girls around the world through Soroptimist programs. As Soroptimist clubs, the impact on our local communities is outstanding, but when combined with the impact around the world, it's amazing. To view a copy, click on the attachment to this email.



President Marilyn Pearson accepts the Cornerstone Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. SITM was named the outstanding volunteer fundraising group for 2008 and honored at a luncheon in December.

## Holiday Party



Kay Dunham with some prized fuzzy slippers.



Enid Oliver is enjoying her new hand puppet.

Kasey La Foon was the winner of the "best/worst" white elephant gift at this year's holiday party – a pair of "break-away" shorts.



Ann Steckline was set to greet the holidays with a showy new hat



## What you missed ...

Did you miss these interesting and informative SITM meetings?

**December 4** – Dr. Bruce Crawford, spoke on his work to repair obstetric fistulae in women in Niger, Africa. The program was part of the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee’s celebration of the SI December 10<sup>th</sup> President’s Appeal.

**December 12** – December Board Meeting

December 19 – SITM’s annual Holiday Party, with the white elephant gift exchange between members was full of laughs and a few grants.

**December 25 & January 1** – Dark

**January 8** – January Business Meeting

**January 15** – The Women Moving Forward Committee presented a preview of the upcoming February 21 event and solicited members to volunteer to participate in the event. Pat Remick of Job Opportunities in Nevada (JOIN) spoke of the success of the 2008 event.

**January 22** – The Education/Women Committee presented the Violet Richardson Award to Megan Moreno. Megan is a senior at McQueen High School and is an avid volunteer within the school district and our community.



*Braden Thomas, our newest Soroptibaby, attended his first meeting January 15. Braden was born November 21, 2008; weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 20.25 inches long. He was welcomed with love by the Jones Family: Michelle, Quentin, Jersey and especially Bella, shown here.*

## What’s coming up...

You won’t want to miss these upcoming meetings.

**January 29** – The Economic/Social Development Committee will present a panel of SITM financial experts addressing the country’s current economic conditions. Bring your questions.

**February 5** – An educational and fun meeting presented by the Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training (SOLT) Committee.

**February 10** – SITM Board Meeting, President Marilyn’s home. All members welcome.

**February 12** – SITM Business Meeting

**February 19** – Presentation by the Environment Committee.

## SITM Donates Christmas Cards

Thanks to all of the members who recycled more than 950 Christmas cards. The card “fronts” were donated to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children in Boulder, Nevada. The fronts will be attached to new “backs” made out of recycled paper and the new “green cards” are sold with payment going to children at the ranch.

St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, a nonprofit organization, rescues abused, abandoned and neglected children of all races and faiths from the vicious cycle of child abuse, and provides a safe, home-like environment.

## “Live Your Dream” at the Winter District Meeting

The District II Winter Meeting will be held Saturday, February 7 at the Carson Valley Inn, in Minden, Nevada. District III opted not to hold a winter meeting, so District II Director Trudy Mills invited all District III Clubs to attend with her clubs.

The day begins at 8 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast and continues with a Sierra Nevada Region and Federation Update by SNR Governor Sue Camp. It continues with SNR Committee Reports. Speakers at lunch include past recipients of the Women’s Opportunity Awards. The afternoon highlight will be reports of club activities from District II Clubs, along with the assembly of gift packets for veterans of military service.

Don’t miss this opportunity to re-connect with old friends and make new ones. See President Marilyn or President-Elect Bev for more details and how to attend.



## Senior Gift Delivery

Again this year, SITM joined SI/Reno to deliver gifts donated to the Salvation Army seniors in our community. President-Elect Bev Perkins and President Marilyn Pearson share a laugh at breakfast.



Getting ready for the senior Gift Delivery are, from left, Stan & Teresa Mentzer and Jeff & Marna Griffin.



Waiting for breakfast are, from left, Pam Robinson, Georgia Baker, Jean Neddenriep and Patty Tucek

### Celebrating December/January/February Birthdays

Patti Dory.....	December 2
Michelle Jones .....	December 4
Judy Miller .....	December 11
Pam Surton .....	January 4
Paula Ringkob .....	January 7
Teresa Mentzer.....	January 7
Deborah Albrecht.....	January 15
Marcia Cobian .....	January 19
Vickie Butler.....	January 28
Norma Rash .....	January 30
Marilyn Pearson .....	February 8
Janice Hoke.....	February 13
Gayle Kmetovicz .....	February 22