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President's Message

Be the One!

What an incredible month September was for our club. We hosted the District III meeting where over 45 people attended, including 10 of our own members. Closets and garages of members and friends were scoured to find treasures for our fall IGU garage sale which supports our girls' dormitory in Thulipokhari, Nepal and other international projects. SITM members, family and friends volunteered countless hours to staff the RARA booth at the Air Races to raise funds for our many projects.

Unspeakable tragedy occurred on Friday, Sept 16 with the crash of a modified vintage plane into the spectators' section. Lives were changed forever, but fortunately our members were all safe. The manner in which our members, the first responders, and the Reno community came together is a testament to the area we call home. Each of us should count our blessings and re-

member those, who on a beautiful fall day lost their lives doing something they loved. Perhaps it reminds us all that "The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly." – *Buddha*



My gratitude goes to Immediate Past President Patti Doty, Patty Downs, and Life Member Laurie Chappelle for leading our meeting on September 22. It was a time to allow members to express their feelings and support one another. I also want to extend my appreciation to Diana Dillon, who during a most difficult time, remained calm and did her best to take

care of our members, race fans and our commitment to RARA. To Kay Dunham and those members who assisted in taking down the booth on Sunday, my thanks as well. You all proved that Soroptimists (and Soroptimisters) are simply the best.

For your President, September was indeed a special time as my family and I welcomed the early arrival of Wyatt Wesley Rash, born on September 21, nearly two weeks early. He's just a little guy at 6 lbs-11 ounces and 19 ½ inches long, but he's certainly captured the hearts of his mom and dad. Cousins, Tyler and Todd, think he is pretty darn cute and they also think he has "big biceps". Auntie Julie flew back from Arizona just in time for his arrival into the world. As for Pops and G, it's amazing to watch the magically transformation of our son and his wife as new parents.

Life is indeed good!

Board/Business Update *by Faye I. Anderson*

Congratulations to new (actually returning) Mary Mead, who was inducted at the September Business Meeting. She was sponsored by Georgia Baker. Welcome Mary.

Makeover for Girls' Dormitory

The IGU Committee recommended and the membership approved an expenditure of \$3,500 to pay for improvements to the girl's dormitory, which is part of SITM's project to provide an education for girls in Thulipokhari, Nepal. Approximately \$3,000 will be used to build a wall around the dormitory. Another \$500 will be used to paint the dormitory.

The dormitory was built with SITM funds in 2001 to provide room-and-board for girls supported with scholarships attending the Janata Sudarsham Multiple Campus

Support the New Discovery Museum

The board and membership approved the solicitation of pledges to sponsor a "\$1,000 "bubble" at the new Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum that would bear SITM's name. Located in the former Reno City Hall, the Nevada Discovery Museum aims to inspire the lifelong learning and creative skills of children aged birth to 12-years old. If you are interested in donating to this endeavor, please contact Marilyn Pearson.

Happy Dollars

October Happy Dollars were designated to a project of the IGU Committee. The committee has selected Women Orthopedists Global Outreach. WOGO is a group of six female orthopedic surgeons who have developed Operation Walk to provide surgeries and treatment for women in developing countries suffering from knee Arthritis.

Membership Notes

Remaining on leave are: Marna Griffin through December for extended travel to Oregon; and Holly Welborn-Hight through January, while she attends law school.

**Board Meeting
Held September 6,
2011**

Board Meetings are held each month on the Tues-day prior to the second Thursday of the month. All are invited to attend and see the discussions at the board meeting.



SITM Members Raising Funds for Women and Children



**Thank you for your commitment
to SI Truckee Meadows,
the Air Races and
our community.**



District III Fall Meeting *by Sue Camp*



Since most Soroptimist members love cruising, the theme of this years' fall meeting hosted by SITM, "All Hands On Deck" was totally welcoming. Held at NV Energy's wonderful meeting room and catered by SI Reno, members arrived from such faraway places as Elko and Susanville.

Upon entering the room, the guests were immediately photographed by our own Gayle Baxley.

You know how this is the first thing that you do when going on a cruise. The difference was that Gayle then printed out these photos at no expense to the attendees. What did you pay on your last cruise for these photos?

Our first speaker was Governor Kay who enlightened us on the events at the Soroptimist International Board Meeting prior to the convention in Montreal. Apparently our delegation which is made up of the current President of SIA, the Immediate Past President of SIA and the President Elect of SIA all chose to not participate in the board meeting when items of concern that they had submitted for discussion were ignored. This included the number of votes for each federation as well as the explanation of financial items in the budget. A committee has now been formed to address these concerns and while this may have seemed like a drastic move, the items in question needed to be addressed.

Governor Elect Janice then reported on the region projects. The new project to replace the "Kay's Cookers" is a project in Sacramento to build a new kitchen at a facility that houses abused women. It is to be known as "Kay's Kitchen".

Amie Laughlin was the featured speaker. She spoke of how to identify needs in your community and then address them. She did this on her own with her "Birthdays Matter" but she also spoke of projects addressed by Soroptimist Clubs such as the creation of "Step 2" by SI Reno. Amie is a passionate Soroptimist and a member of the SI Washoe County Club.

Renaissance Chair Joanne Valentine spoke of membership issues and how to increase the membership of your club. She also spoke of retention and the importance of being open to

new ideas.

We also had a game and lest you think that Sue Camp always wins, you had better talk to her successor, Kay Dunham. Yes Kay won the game that started with Bingo (cruises always have Bingo), used a treasure map and then went from cruise ship to cruise ship answering questions to earn passage.

As you can see by our photos, it was a fun day and we missed seeing you there.



Before

Before most women had the right to vote,

there was Soroptimist.

Before F.D.R. was President,

there was Soroptimist.

Before there was Social Security,

there was Soroptimist.

Before there was an independent nation of Egypt,

there was Soroptimist.

Before Charles Lindbergh made the first nonstop, solo transatlantic flight,

there was Soroptimist.

Before there was penicillin,

there was Soroptimist

Before “Gone with the Wind” or “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”,

there was Soroptimist.

Before the United Nations, Sputnik, talking movies, Babe Ruth or an International Declaration of Human Rights,

there was



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Please read this important message from SIA



SIA Board Statement Regarding SI

Dear Soroptimist Members,

At our meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 28-29, 2011, your federation Board of Directors discussed in depth the current financial sustainability, governance and business practices of Soroptimist International. We have expressed these concerns with SI for several years.

This past July, at the SI board meeting in Montreal, your members of the SI Board of Directors (President Sharon Fisher, President-elect Pat Donohue and Immediate Past President Cathy Standiford) made several attempts to have these concerns addressed without success, and decided to take the bold step of withdrawing from the July 2011 SI board meeting. While this strategy has been controversial, it did result in SI creating several workgroups to address SIA's concerns. All four federations are participating in each of the workgroups. SIA expects these concerns to be resolved.

SIA has absolutely no intention of severing its relationship with SI. We look forward to clarifying our relationship within SI in a way that is beneficial to our federation, as well as to the other three federations that comprise SI.

As members of the SI Board, your SIA leaders must exercise good governance, including our fiduciary responsibility. SI's financial sustainability, governance and business practices need to be remedied.

We will continue to share additional information as updates become available. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve the lives of women and girls.

**Regards,
2010-2011 SIA Board of Directors**

Soroptimist International

From SI's Global Voice Newsletter

How is SI influencing international policy?

The annual UN Department of Public Information/NGO conference, held in Bonn, Germany, was a huge success. SI's delegation of 12 joined over 1,500 NGO representatives at the NGO UN Relations Cluster's premier event. The theme this year was: 'Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens'.

The final conference declaration addresses the alarming state of the environment, poverty and global inequalities and will be taken to the UN General Assembly. SI is delighted to see many of our contributions, made both prior to the conference and during the feedback sessions, included in the final declaration. [Click here](#) to read more about the declaration, and [here](#) to read the final report from the SI delegation.

SI UN Representative Alice from Nairobi, and International Assistant Programme Director, Anusha, attended a UNEP consultation in advance of Rio+20 (also known as The Earth Summit 2012). The consultation focussed on the role of civil society in shaping the sustainable development agenda and how key groups, including women, could contribute to the preparation process for Rio+20. [Click here](#) to read a news story about the event, and [here](#) for a blog special!

SI UN Representatives Lois and Yoko attended a meeting on "Empowering Women and Girls: Innovative Collaborations to Combat Trafficking" at the United Nations in New York. The meeting focused on the importance of education and empowerment for women and girls, looking at a partnership between the USA, Brazil and The Netherlands. [Click here](#) to read more.

SI supported a joint statement from the NGO Forum for Health (Geneva) and the NGO Committee on Mental Health (New York). The statement calls upon the UN to include mental health as a non-communicable disease (NCDs), in recognition of the fact that good health requires mental well being, in addition to physical well being.

Finally, Heather, a Soroptimist from SIA, attended a World Bank and International Monetary Fund Civil Society Forum in Washington D.C. Heather was able to represent SI at an open forum on gender as well as attending sessions on civil society engagement, disaster risk reduction and climate change. [Click here](#) to read more!

In next month's Global Voice we will report back from the Audacia conference which took place in New York, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia, and the Committee on World Food Security in Rome!

October 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 IGU	7	8
9	10	11 Board Meeting	12	13 Business Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Health	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Hospitality	28	29 SNR Board Meeting
30	31					

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Human Rights/Status of Women	4 Board Meeting	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Ad Hoc Committee-- Dating Violence	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 DARK	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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Certain articles taken from SI Global Voice Newsletter and SIA's monthly e-newsletter

Anyone interested in membership, we would love to have you! We meet every Thursday at noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort on the second floor convention area. Lunch is \$16 so join us!