

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

WOW – What a Month

The SNR Spring Conference started out routinely on the morning of April 25, with food, speeches and companionship. And then we heard about the earthquake in Nepal. We felt stunned - not



Staffing the Hospitality Table at conference, from left is Delegate Enid Oliver, Rikki Hensley-Ricker and President Pam Sutton.

knowing what had happened in Thulipokhari, and not knowing what we could do to help. But we Soroptimists aren't ones to just sit around, and within 24 hours SITM was mobilized. Connie Steinheimer went on TV

on Sunday and by Monday we'd established a donation website through the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. In the following days we were featured on all three main TV stations and twice in the newspaper. The fundraising results have been amazing with almost \$5,000 received so far. Thank goodness the damage was limited to buildings and nobody was killed.

SITM's response to the earthquake provided the opportunity for a Service Committee, IGU, to work closely with our Public Awareness Committee. IGU, particularly Connie Steinheimer and Monica House, provided direct knowledge of our ongoing programs in Thulipokhari and, through Purna Subedi, up-to-date information on the status of the village. This added authenticity to all our communications. The Public Awareness Committee, particularly Niki Ewing (with a little help from yours truly) made sure TV appearances were scheduled and achieved, press releases were written and distributed, Facebook and our website were updated, and much more. This cooperation was a crash course in how much can be gained from working together. The PA Committee is a great resource for all service projects and I hope Niki will get a lot of requests for assistance next year!

SITM's Thanks to Youth celebrations are known for bringing huge smiles and tears of joy. This year was no different - in fact the six graduating seniors who received scholarships and especially our 12 Unsung Heroes, were some of the most inspiring we've seen in a while.



The Girls Dormitory in Thulipokhari suffered only minor damage. The security wall we recently had installed didn't fare as well in some spots.

From the way the luncheon went off without a hitch you'd never know how hard the Education Youth and Thanks to Youth Committees worked to make it happen - including some crazy last-minute scrambles to find an alternative program when the planned speakers had to cancel and to re-do seating arrangements when the Atlantis changed from tables of 8 to tables of 10. We also need to appreciate that TTY is a self-sustaining program that wouldn't exist without our sponsors and raffle prize ticket buyers. Their generosity makes it possible.

Just when things seemed to be calming down, the weather forecast for our Garage Sale said rainy and cold. The IGU Committee wisely rescheduled it for May 30, which we hope will be sunny

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and warm. Proceeds from this Garage Sale will go to our disaster relief efforts in Thulpokhari.

In the mixed blessing department, the new Reno Air Race Association management team has made some changes to their staffing requirements that are almost impossible for SITM to comply with. At the recommendation of the Air Race Committee, the board and then membership voted to call it a day and we will no longer be working in the RARA merchandise booth. We will, however, continue to sell calendars at the Air Races while looking at alternative fundraising opportunities.

So – what a month! Each and every club member has been touched in some way by these events and changes. I believe we will look back to find that this month has made us stronger, more cohesive and more future-focused. I look forward with great anticipation to what tomorrow brings!

President Pam Surton



May birthday celebrants, Vivian Ruiz and Liza Chapen were recognized at the business meeting.

Calendar

- May 28 - Committee Sign-ups for 2015-16
- May 29 -IGU Garage Sale set-up, Judge Connie Steinheimer's home
- May 30 – SITM Garage Sale
- June 4 - Open Meeting
- June 9 - Joint Board Mtg., Disability Resources, 5:30 p.m.
- June 11- Business Meeting, Atlantis
- June 17 - SI Reno Installation, 7 a.m., United Way, 639 Isbell Rd., Suite 460. RSVP to Carole Horsley, 771-7069
- June 18 - Year in Review
- June 25 - Installation of 2015-2016 Officers and Board

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Changes to Reno Air Races Fundraiser Voted

For the coming year, the Reno Air Racing Association has made two difficult changes that impact SITM's fundraising ability at the races.

RARA has changed the way they plan to compensate nonprofit volunteer organizations working at the races this year. Instead of paying an hourly wage, as has been done in the past, RARA is planning to pay a commission of approximately 2% of the total sales of merchandise. After a multi-year analysis, it appeared that SITM's likely fundraising efforts under the new system would only net about \$7,000, as opposed to the usual \$12,000+ for our sales efforts.

RARA has also determined that our valiant and dedicated co-coordinator, Diana Dillon can no longer head-up SITM's sales team, since she supplies merchandise to RARA. Therefore, SITM would need two new coordinators to replace Diana and her co-coordinator Kay Dunham and Niki Ewing, who can't be there full time. This involves an eight-day commitment of over 100 hours, just during race week.

After some discussion and explanation, the Board recommended and the membership approved a motion to discontinue our sales efforts at the RARA merchandise booth. The club will continue to sponsor an individual booth at the Air Races as an umbrella for artist Dan Whitkoff, and his friend April, who also sell our "Ghosts" calendars. We will continue our pre-Air Races sales of "Ghosts" calendars as well.



SITM's venerable Air Race Coordinators, Kay Dunham and Diana Dillon shown here. soliciting volunteers.

SNR's 39th Annual Conference Held in Reno April 24-26

Excerpted from Delegate Bev Perkins' Delegate's Report

Seventeen SITM members attended all or part of the 39th annual Sierra Nevada Region Conference, April 24-26 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno.

This year's conference featured workshops, recognitions and awards, speakers scholarships and grant recipients, merchandise sales, a movie and raffles.



Barbara Atwell and Penney Leezy, coordinated The Market Place club and individual sales booths at conference.

SITM members Penney Leezy and Barbara Atwell were among the first to arrive. As co-coordinators of conference sales, they were busy greeting club and member vendors who set-up tables around the main meeting room to sell their wares.



Penney Leezy and Jan Bogikes in front of one of the two beautiful quilts made by Jan and raffled by SITM.

Member Jan Bogikes, along with other members, spent the weekend selling raffle tickets for a chance to win two beautiful and large quilts Jan



Girl Scout Troop 1631 performed the presentation of the colors to open the conference.

made and donated to the club for the fundraiser. A total of \$661 was raised by the raffle, and will be used by SITM's Membership Committee next year to recruit new members.

Delegate Bev Perkins arrived soon and attended a presentation on the events surrounding the 59th annual meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. That was followed by a Stop Trafficking Update, a candidate's forum and a delegates briefing.



First time attendees to conference, Kathy Hudson, Jan Bogikes and Rikki Hensley-Ricker.

The official opening began with the presentation of the colors by District V Director Noel Trim's Girl Scout Troop 1631. Several special recognitions were made for First Time Attendees, Life Members and

multiple categories of Laurel Society membership. Barbara Atwell joined the ranks of Laurel Society membership at conference.

Club Awards were also presented. SITM took a third place award in the Celebrating Success Fundraising category for our work at the Reno Air Races. In the Five Star Public Awareness category SITM took a second place in the newsletter category.



District IV Director Veronica Gonzalez and SIA Secretary-Treasurer, present Barbara Atwell with her Laurel Society pin.

Saturday Business Session

The day began with credentials, given by former SITM member Norma Rash, minutes, treasurers and finance reports and a presentation by each of the candidates running for the Nominating Committee. Our own Margie Hermanson was elected to represent District V. A bylaws amendment to reword a section designating an already established \$1 per member to go to SIA programs, instead of a designated project (like Women's Opportunity Award) was passed.

Keynote speaker for Saturday lunch was Any Booth from the American Heart Association, who presented an Elizabeth Banks video on heart disease.

SIA Federation Reports

Our Federation Visitor, SIA Secretary-Treasurer RoseMary Reid spoke about improving the Soroptimist brand and the new girl-focused program, Dream It-Be It. SNR Secretary Lane Parks gave the Federation Membership report.

Coordinator Linda Dye stressed consistent branding and utilizing the resources on the SIA Website.

The Federation Program Report was given by SNR Governor-Elect Vicki Watson. Clubs were encouraged to submit Celebrating Success applications. This year, they are due July 1. There are planning tools, a guide and curriculum available on the SIA website for the Dream It – Be It career support program for girls.



Immediate Past President and newly elected SNR Nominating Committee for District V, Margie Hermanson, left, and Delegate Enid Oliver.

SNR Region Reports

SNR STOP Trafficking Task Force Coordinator Joanne Tremelling reported every district has done something on trafficking awareness or support.

Federation Fundraising Coordinator Linda McDoniels asked clubs to donate 10% of their fundraising efforts to SIA to carry out our mission and make Soroptimist a household name.



SITA members attending the Saturday dinner are standing, from left, Jo Ann Roberts, Margie Hermanson, Jan Bogikes, Kay Dunham, Bev Perkins, Faye I. Andersen, President Pam Sutton, Patti Doty. Seated from left are: Enid Oliver, Barbara Arwell and Penney Leezy.

SNR Endowment Club Grants were announced by Coordinator Cathie Duchene. Eight grants were awarded last year, with four so far this year. These grants are funded through the Conference basket raffle.

Saturday Evening Highlights

The evening began with a Parade of Presidents, Past Governors and current SNR Board. The conference



Member Jan Veys, makes a sale from her boutique to Kathy Southern at conference.

was treated to a surprise visitor, SIA President Poco Davis, who was attending a conference in Asia, but flew back to be with SNR and her club, SI/Metropolitan Las Vegas.

The evening program was the showing of the movie, "Girl Rising", a film depicting nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world; all ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds



Delegate Bev Perkins, left takes a break from her reporting to share a laugh with Jan Bogikes.

to pursue their dreams. The region owns a copy of the movie that is available for loan to clubs.

Celebration of Life Sunday Morning

At the Celebration of Life ceremony Sunday morning, Linda Wright from SI/Trinity County sang "Over the Rainbow," remembering that Sue Camp was fond of that song. Past President JoAnn Roberts represented SITM in remembering our Life Member Carrie Porter; and Immediate Past President Margie spoke about our



Carrie Porter

awarded to a doctoral degree student who teaches science and math to middle school students. The Soroptimist Ruby Award was presented to Jenny Williamson, founder of Courage Worldwide, an organization encouraging and empowering all people to fulfill their own destiny.

Throughout the conference, tickets were sold for a raffle for a 50/50 drawing, and another raffle of baskets prepared by each club. Member Kathy Hudson held the winning ticket for a basket from SI/Lincoln.

The conference was adjourned Sunday afternoon with the Soroptimist Pledge.

Upcoming Events

- July 9-12 -- SI Convention, Istanbul, Turkey
- July 25-26 -- SNR Development Retreat
- April 29 – May 1, 2016 -- SNR Conference



Sue Camp

much loved and much missed friend Sue Camp. Sue's husband Vic joined us for the celebration.

Live Your Dream Awards

Sunday brunch featured awards and recognition programs. Five, \$3000 Region live Your Dream Awards were presented to women who are students from around the region, plus one \$5,000 award, plus a laptop to the top winner, from SI/Chico.

Director Tania Garcia-Cardena presented the Outstanding "S" Club Award to SI/Marysville-Yuba City's River Valley High School for their "Suitcases for Kids" program.

The SNR Fellowship Grant was



The Sierra Nevada Region Board, along with official visitors to conference. Standing from left: SIA President Poco Davis, Secretary Lane Parks, Governor Jackie DeMartini, Governor-Elect Vicki Watson, Treasurer Pam Greever, District V Director Noel Trim, District III Director Barbara Smiley and SIA President-Elect-Elect RoseMary Reid. Kneeling from left: District I Director Sherry Hoyer, District IV Director Veronica Gonzalez, District VI Director Susan Strople, District II Director Tania Garcia-Cadena.

Twelve Scholarships Awarded at Annual Luncheon

By Pam Robinson

Twelve scholarships were awarded at our annual Education Women luncheon on April 23, 2015. Seven undergraduate re-entry women received the Nancy Gomes/Mary Gojack scholarships. Nancy Gomes was a Nevada Legislator and a tireless advocate for Nevada's women and children. Mary Gojack, a charter member of SITM, was instrumental in establishing the original Nancy Gomes scholarship. After Mary's passing, the Club decided to honor her by adding her name to the scholarship program.

This year we awarded \$23,000 in undergrad scholarships to Mellissa Aguirre, TMCC nursing; Asma Aimal, UNR IELC/Nursing; Melissa Wadsworth, WNCC business and accounting; Camille Jones, UNR human development; Terri-Ann Nuckolls, TMCC substance abuse counseling; Esmeralda Salas, TMCC Anthropology; and Amy J. Heston UNR Nursing. Terri-Ann Nuckolls attended Making a Difference for Women a few years ago and is now in school. Amy Heston was our Live Your Dream awardee this year also.



Jack Simon Graduate Level Scholarship recipients are from left: Olivia Rassuchine (also winner of Sue Camp scholarship), Lauran Evans, Marcella LaShay Mayfield, Devin Doos, and Koala Koenig.

Guest speaker was Traci Davis, Interim Superintendent for Washoe County, whose remarks centered around "woman power". Our luncheon was well attended by our Sierra Nevada Region governor and her board as well as an SIA representative. Since the first SITM scholarship was awarded in 1980, our club has awarded over \$950,000 in scholarships to 279 undergraduates and 92 graduate students!



Nancy Gomes – Mary Gojack Re-Entry Women Scholarship recipients, are from left: Esmeralda Salas, Melissa Wadsworth, Camille Jones, Terri-Ann Nuckolls, Amy Heston, Asma Aimal, Mellissa Aguirre.

Our graduate scholarship is named after Jack Simon who generously supported our scholarship fundraising efforts for many years. Past president and life member Jeanne Baxter established the first graduate scholarship after Jack's passing in 1994. Graduate scholarships in the amount of \$12,000 were awarded to Koala Koenig, UNR PhD Literacy Studies; Devin Doos, UN School of Medicine; Olivia Rassuchine, UN School of Medicine; Marcella LaShay Mayfield, UNR Biotechnology; and Lauran Evans, UN School of Medicine. Olivia Rassuchine was also awarded the first Sue Camp Memorial Scholarship established this year in memory of our dear member.



Mistresses of Ceremonies Rikki Hensley-Ricker and Lynne Catrow introduced the recipients and efficiently kept the program moving.

Scholarship Photos by Paula Leyba of the Image Gallery Photography Studio.

Nepal Disaster Relief Project Already Helping Thulipokhari

By Monica House

Wow- what an incredibly busy few weeks the IGU committee and our club has had helping the people in Thulipokhari Nepal. Immediately, following the devastating Gorkha earthquake that happened on April 25 at 11:56NST, killing 8,000 people and injuring more than 16,000, the IGU committee was immediately in contact with Dr. Purna Subedi and Dipendra (Purna's cousin).

On April 25, 7:46 PM IGU Committee Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer received a text via viber from Dipendra saying:



One of the damaged homes in Thulipokhari.

"The government is suggesting not to sleep inside the house tonight. I am worried about drinking water and electricity supply. You have seen, electricity supply is very unstable. All the structures are weakened. If you remember Haiti situation, I hope that's not gonna happen at Katmandu."

Then an email from Purna on April 25, 2015 at 9:16 PM:

"I heard that there have been no fatalities in the village of

Thulipokhari but quite a few homes have collapsed. I do not know about the condition of the dorm building. Since the earthquake happened around noon local time, most villagers were outside their homes which saved their lives. I am getting reports that some other villages have been totally flattened and hundreds dead. I will keep updated as I get specific news about Thulipokhari."

Following this, we fortunately learned that our girls' dormitory sustained hardly any damage. However other families in the village did not fare so well and almost 3000 homes were destroyed in the district where our dorm is located. Due to aftershocks and the total destruction of so many dwellings, 20-30 percent of the population are sleeping and eating outside. Also, it has been very rainy, the ground is very wet and everyone is concerned about illness. Upon this news,

SITM immediately went to work to get aid to them as fast possible by:

- Working closely with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to organize an emergency relief fund to benefit the village. Tracy Turner has been keeping us informed of the donations received. As of May 11, we have received close to \$5,000 in donations.
- Press Releases: Members Connie Steinheimer, Pam Sutton, Monica House, Niki Ewing and Becky Moody did television interviews with news channels 2, 4, and 8.
- Social Media: Niki Ewing posted on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Kay Dunham and Cindy Burk made sure funds were wired to Nepal immediately upon approval.
- President Pam took an email vote to get approval to change all proceeds from the garage sale currently being held on May 30, 2015 to be dedicated to the Disaster Relief Project.

May 6, 2015 We received a call from Hari in the village that the funds were received immediately in Nepal without any trouble. We also learned that the schools in the village of Thulipokhari were opened this week and that the girls were already back in the dorms. The relief funds were utilized to help those who were affected by the quake by providing temporary shelter, food, water, fuel and other essential items. Soroptimist will receive the complete data of how the funds were utilized soon. Hari also said the villagers were very grateful and emotional towards SITM. They felt so much relief from both the physical and mental trauma they suffered during the past week. On behalf of the villagers, thank you everyone for your generosity and help!

This news van was parked at Connie Steinheimer's home at 4 a.m. one morning as she, Monica House, Niki Ewing and Becky Moody did interviews on earthquake damage in Nepal and gave news from our contacts in the village.



Members Ponder Strategic Questions and Progress Report

By Doris Phelps

April 16 Club meeting – Club members were randomly assigned to the lunch table and discussed four questions to solicit their opinions on the major SITM programs and projects. The questions were presented as table topics:

Do we have too many programs and projects right now? Too few? About right? Why?

Members generally felt the number of programs/projects was about right, given the number of active members; some felt the projects could be timed so that fewer occurred in the spring.

Is there one program or project that you would want to re-invent, expand or eliminate? Why?

Thanks to Youth – eliminate scholarships and expand Unsung Heroes; focus on girls only, schedule the event for a different time of year; eliminate partnership with Libby Booth due to their support from other organizations; find a different school that needs our help.

If you could propose one new project, what would it be? Why?

Topics included human trafficking, social responsibility, volunteering. Some members are open to looking at new projects and others feel we don't need another one.

Do you support the idea of collaborating with other non-profit organizations? Why?

Yes, with specific criteria to evaluate the merits of the collaboration: on a voluntary basis, especially where SITM members are already involved; SITM must maintain its autonomy; suggest a young group; support President-Elect Vivian's idea to invite organizations to present their ideas for collaboration and then, in a competitive assessment, select the most viable idea.

May 7 Club meeting – Club members again were randomly assigned to tables to discuss issues impacting women and girls and to select the three topics they cared most about. Suggested topics included: education, human trafficking, aging out of foster care, drug & alcohol abuse, child abuse, work readiness, life skills, hunger, domestic violence, disabilities, homelessness, lack of advocacy and "other."

Members listed human trafficking, aging out of foster care, education, homelessness, senior women, advocacy and disabilities. As each table reported their choices, they also suggested other organizations for possible collaboration, such as NYEP, the senior center, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Soroptimist clubs in Las Vegas, and city and state programs.

The final report to the Board and the Club Business Meetings will be presented in June.

SITM Assists Aly's Prom Closet Dress Students for Prom

Each year Aly's Prom Closet collects formal attire appropriate for high school proms to distribute to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend their school prom. For several years, SITM members have volunteered to staff the closet, which operates from space donated by Shopper's Square. Volunteering this year were: Jo Ann Roberts, Dot Watts, Bev Perkins, Anna McArdle, Lynne Carrow, Rikki Hensley- Ricker, Linda Lamke and Carol Dinneen.



Aly's Prom Closet Store at Shopper's Square



Aly's Prom Closet Dresses

Take Many Talents and Interests, Add Boundless Energy = Liza Chapen

By Paula Ringkob

I first met Liza Chapen in the 1980's when we were both new SITM members (her sponsor was Joanne Dain) and she worked full-time as a court reporter.

As a Life Member of SITM, she decided to take a permanent cancel and pay the annual club dues after her husband's death in 2007. We're so happy that she is again very involved in SITM and has a new pursuit: Physical Vascular Therapy BEMER. She became an Independent BEMER Distributor in January of 2014 and earlier this month received her certification as a BEMER Medical Representative. Always yearning to learn more, in her "semi-retirement" she has become first-year certified in EEM (Eden Energy Medicine), and is skilled in EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) and TRT (Tension and Trauma Release Therapy).



Liza and Chris Fegert at SITM's in-club Halloween celebration last fall.

I want to tell you more about this fascinating woman who was born in Minden and raised in Carson City. She is the middle child of three girls and also has a half-brother. During high school she

did very well in typing and shorthand classes and her teachers encouraged her to go to San Francisco to attend court reporting school. She is certified as a court reporter in Nevada and California and holds a Certificate of Merit with the National Court Reporters Association. She describes court reporting as a "God-given" skill requiring dexterity and mental quickness. The academic program to learn court reporting requires three years of full time study and only 10% complete the program.

When she was in court reporting school in San Francisco, she met her husband, Larry, and they were married in 1967. Ten years later they moved to Reno, and after working for a court reporting agency for three years, Liza and three other reporters started their own agency. It was a successful firm for ten years...then the IRS dismantled it. She then, in 1990, opened her own agency and still works part time as a freelance deposition reporter.

She has boundless energy and in 2002 finished her

studies to become a minister. She was then ordained in 2010. She frequently officiates at weddings and funerals and also does spiritual counseling. My son, Steve, and his wife, Ann, asked her to officiate at their 2005 outdoor wedding. She wore a fringed multi-colored cut-velvet robe and did a beautiful job.



Liza and her "sweetie" Steve Hibbs.

After she received a personal invitation from Connie Steinheimer, she came to the 2014 IGU luncheon to hear Purna Subedi talk about Nepal, got "rehooked" on SITM and changed her status to active member. Her favorite club project is the IGU-Nepal Project.

Liza frequently pays a Happy Dollar to tell us what is going on with her and her "sweetie." His name is Steve Hibbs. They met the "modern way" in February 2014 on March.com. After working at the Lawrence Livermore Lab for 30-plus years, Steve retired and moved to Markleeville, CA. Liza said they are both hikers and musicians (she plays piano, he plays the guitar and mandolin, and they both sing). They are also both history buffs and avid readers – passing books back and forth – and they are both very spiritual.

I asked her how she spends her time now and she said court reporting is about 5% and the ministry is another 5%. The remaining time is spent spreading the word about the BEMER. Because it increases circulation throughout the body, the BEMER helps healthy people stay healthy and helps people who are ill fight their illness. She said, "When I learned about this amazing medical device, I couldn't not want to share it with others."



Liza wearing her "wedding robe", given to her by her late husband Larry upon becoming a minister. The figure on the robe is Quan Yin, the Buddhist goddess of compassion and mercy. Liza says, "It's so pretty, I've never even thought of purchasing a boring ol' black robe."

April Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

It's been a busy month, a busy time of year, and the May Board and Business Meetings were full of business and decisions.

SNR Conference Recap

Club Delegate Bev Perkins gave a detailed report on the 39th Annual Sierra Nevada Region Conference. Seventeen SITM members attended all or part of the conference proceedings and festivities, April 24-26. Our first-time attendees, Laurel Society Members and Life Member were honored. The weekend featured awards, presentations, business and speakers, as well as a Celebration of Life Memorial including two members who passed last year, Sue Camp and Carrie Porter. See pages 3-5 for more details.

Quilt Raffle a Rousing Success

Pre-conference and during the conference, SITM members sold raffle tickets for a chance to win one of two beautiful hand-made quilts donated by Jan Bogikes. A total of \$661 was raised and designated for next year's Membership Committee to be used in recruiting and welcoming new members. Two Soroptimists attending conference went home with a beautiful bed quilt. Thanks Jan and all who sold tickets.

Changes to Reno Air Races Fundraiser

For the coming year, the Reno Air Racing Association has made two difficult changes that impact SITM's fundraising ability at the races. The board recommended and the membership approved discontinuing our sales of merchandise for RARA at this year's races. See page 2 for a full report.

Service and General Fund Budgets Set for Next Year

Upon a second reading and presentation of the budgets by the Service Fund and General Fund Treasurers, the membership approved the budgets for the 2015-16 Club Year. Primary changes were to the General Fund Budget, which included a dues increase from SIA Federation of \$16 for this fiscal year and \$2 more for the next two fiscal years for a total of \$20. Approved was a dues increase from \$171 to \$190 with no further increases for the next two years. Also approved was dropping the one-time new member fee of an additional \$45 to cover member expenses, such as name badge, pin, roster, etc.

Making a Difference Awards 18 Grants

The Making a Difference for Women Committee reports

that a total of \$4,000 in grants have been awarded to 18 different recipients, all who attended the March 2 skills training event. The grants included seven refurbished laptops provided at a discount by New2U Computers (thank you Vivian Ruiz), computer software, appropriate work shoes and clothing, bus passes to get to work, new apartment supplies, utility arrears payment, class tuition and textbooks.

Each year, attendees at SITM's Making a Difference for Women skills training seminar are eligible to apply for small dollar grants to be used to facilitate additional training or help them go to work or continue working.

Nepal Disaster Relief Reaching Out to Thulipokhari

On April 25, a devastating earthquake struck Nepal. SITM's IGU Committee, Public Awareness Committee and leadership swung into action getting the word out to the community through the news media. Arrangements were made through the Community Foundation of Western Nevada to accept donations to assist our school girls and the village.

In less than a week, financial aid from SITM to purchase tents, tarps, food for both people and animals was received and already helping the villagers. Thanks to everyone who donated. See page 7 for full details and pictures of the earthquake damaged buildings.

Happy Dollars Awarded to ALS

Happy Dollars for the month of April totaled \$514 and were designated for the ALS Association, Nevada Chapter, providing services for individuals suffering from ALS (sometimes called Lou Gehrig's disease) and their caregivers. Happy Dollars for May are designated for Volunteers of America to assist women clients with expenses related to employment and job placement.

Health Committee Donates Funds

The Health Committee has split its \$200 committee funds and donated \$100 each to two health organizations. Receiving the donations at the May Business Meeting from High Sierra Health Education Network were Andrea Greg and Rona Reynolds. From Northern Nevada Hopes receiving the donation was Susie Schaffer.

Wine & Food Pairing Fundraiser Coming

A wine and food pairing fundraiser was approved by the membership for July 13 at We Olive & Wine Bar in Reno (next to Nordstrom's Rack). But first, there will be a dry-run on June 18 at 5:30 p.m. for \$30. The fundraiser in

Board Business Update continued from page 10

July will cost \$40, with \$20 of the proceeds going to SITM. If you are interested in participating or contributing to this fundraiser, contact Jennifer Burnitt.

Progress on Strategic Plan Continues

Advance Steering Committee Coordinator Doris Phelps reported the progress being made by the committee on the Club's Strategic Goals. This included the April 16 and May 7 Club meetings where members' opinions were solicited on major SITM project and programs, plus discussed and prioritized important issues impacting women and girls.

Ambitious next steps are to create draft plans for Public Awareness and Membership Goals and define outcomes for each of the four major Strategic Plan Goals for 2015-16. See page 8 for a full report.

Bylaw Changes Approved

The first reading of some changes to Club Bylaws, were presented at the May Business Meeting. The changes are mostly administrative, which include:

- Combining the Recruitment and Retention and Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT) Committee into a single committee named Membership.
- Eliminating the inactive Environment Committee.
- Deleting references and duties for the Violet Richardson Award.
- Attendance make-up credits will be changed from working "a day" to working "a shift".
- Removing Special Events Committee procedures from the Club Bylaws and establishing procedures separate from the bylaws that can be more easily addressed as warranted.

Granting Wishes for Special Teachers

The Education-Youth Committee decided to grant wishes from the "wish lists" of the 28 Libby Booth Elementary School teachers and spent their \$700 committee money, plus an additional \$300 in donations on items the teachers wanted that would enhance their teaching and benefit students. The requests from teachers ranged from bean bag chairs for a reading corner, CD player, books on CD, headphones, organizers for groups of desks, a sharing stool, colored pencils, Crayola crayons, washable markers, colored stamp pads, flashlights for reading buddies, notebooks, soprano flutes for fourth graders, an ottoman for sharing, and gift certificates to the parent teacher store.



Some of the teacher appreciation grants delivered to Libby Booth Elementary.



With the help of a \$600 donation from Sparks Florist, the Education Youth Committee recently provided floral arrangements for the teachers and staff at Libby Booth Elementary School. Shown with the flowers are Principal Sara Cunningham, seated, and her assistant Michelle Faulkner.

Libby Booth Elementary School Principal Sara Cunningham and Education-Youth Co-Coordinator Connie Steinheimer with some of the teacher grant materials.



SITM Update

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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 . . .

Soroptimist International of the Americas
Live Your Dream Snapshot



This entry was posted in the May 2015 Soroptimist Summary on April 30, 2015 by Soroptimist Headquarters.

LiveYourDream.org was selected as a winner in the 21th Annual Communicator Awards in the websites/activism category. The [Communicator Awards](#) honor the best in advertising, corporate communications, public relations and identity work for print, video, interactive and audio. LiveYourDream.org is excited and honored to receive this recognition!