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Calendar

- Dec. 20 – Holiday Social, Hospitality Committee
- Dec. 27 – Dark, no meeting
- Jan. 3 – Dark, no meeting
- Jan. 10 – Making a Difference for Women Kickoff
- Jan. 15 -- Board Meeting, President’s Jeanne’s Home
- Jan. 17 – Business Meeting
- Jan. 24 – Live Your Dream Award

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon
 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
 Second Floor Convention Center
 \$22 for lunch.
 RSVP to sitmtruckeemeadows@hotmail.com no later than noon on the Tuesday before the Thursday meeting.

Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.



Focusing on Water During December to Empower Women

December is here and the hustle and bustle of the Holidays is in full swing, and additionally, it is SI President’s Appeal month. SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen has chosen “Women, Water, and Leadership”, as her signature program for her Presidency, 2017-2019. It advocates a program that “supports projects that Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls, ensuring they have the capacity, experience and education needed to manage water resources and gain careers in water-related professions.” We have had several educational and informative speakers in the past weeks with presentations on that very subject of water.

We learned from Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald and The Empowerment for Women Committee about the empowering impact of clean water, sanitation, and education in the lives of women in underdeveloped countries. We saw the dedication of women helping women achieve higher levels of economic independence through access to water. SITM’s Nepal project, where access to clean water has made a major difference in the lives of the young women living in the dormitory and their community as a whole, was

ahead of its time in demonstrating why President Mariet’s “Women, Water, and Leadership” program is vital to any effort seeking to empower women.

As an empowered group of women ourselves, we Soroptimists are the essence of the Holiday giving spirit. We will complete our Angel Tree this month in support of children, who without our generosity would not be having any Holiday cheer. We have also crocheted afghans for the Christmas baskets at Our Lady of the



Snows Church and we have donated 54 crocheted scarves to local non-profits. I look back on the last six months and we have accomplished a multitude of community and international projects benefiting women and girls, and in the New Year we will be hosting our major scholarship events.

Around my Holiday table, I will raise a glass to toast all of you and your dedication to making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our community and around the world. Soroptimists are truly best for Women and Girls.

Enjoy a Blessed Holiday,
 President Jeanne



Bring Christmas Socks and Purchase Sweet Treats at December 20 Meeting.

See page 2 for details,



Thanks for SITM's Camp Fire Donation

Dear Members of SI/Truckee Meadows:

We are all overwhelmed with the magnitude of the devastation from the Camp Fire in northern California. But your generosity of your \$4,000 gift is amazing! Thank you so much for your big hearts!



Soroptimist Proud.

Fondly,
Lane Parks
Governor, Sierra Nevada Region
2018-2020

Bravo! Well done!

Congratulations on 40 years of service as Soroptimists!

You set an example for many other clubs!



Lane Parks,
Governor,
Sierra Nevada Region

Bring Christmas Socks and Purchase Sweet Treats December 20

Be prepared to get socks and give socks on December 20. The Hospitality Committee is holding a "holiday social" at the regular Thursday meeting. They request you bring a pair of Christmas socks for exchange. Please wrap the socks or otherwise conceal them in packaging for the exchange.

Also on December 20, some of SITM's serious bakers will be bringing sweet treats and goodies for sale. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the club's fundraising efforts. Take some treats home for the holidays.

Holiday Greetings from the Sierra Nevada Region

May the joy and hope of the holidays fill your hearts the whole year through.

Your 2018-2020 Board of Directors

Back row from left::

Ann Bryant, District 4 Director
Terrel Locke, District 2 Director
Sarah Carrasco, Governor Elect
Tracey Edwards, District 3 Director
Nancy Becker, Secretary
Stacey Sawyer, District 6 Director

Front row from left:

Sheron Box, Treasurer
Sue Chambers, District 5 Director
Lane Parks, Governor
Lisa Fitzgerald, District 1 Director



Letter from Attorney General Adam Laxalt

In August of this year, some of SITM members joined Soroptimists from SI/Washoe County and members of the Nevada Trucking Association, in conjunction with the Nevada Attorney General's Office, to host Supporting Our Survivors, a benefit dinner for Survivors of Human Trafficking. Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt is leaving office at the end of this year and sent a letter to SITM member Sarah Carrasco, who coordinated Soroptimist's participation in the human trafficking dinner.

In his letter, the Attorney General outlined his many accomplishments over the past four years in office. He also included the following excerpt:

I am profoundly proud of all that we have done together. The work on behalf of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Your dedication to these missions inspired those in my office to set a course and keep to that course, to diligently chip away at meaningful problems for our constituents, and to work toward real and lasting solutions. It was encouraging to move forward together. Above all else, I continue to be encouraged by the way we have moved forward together on behalf of all Nevadans.

As I prepare to leave this fine office, and the dedicated public servants within it, I want you to know how blessed I have been to serve alongside you in the Battle Born State.

***Sincerely,
ADAM P. LAXALT
Attorney General***

Donation Voting, Raffle Drawings and Philanthropy All in One Meeting

Members participated in a very busy meeting on November 15, which saw a special meeting called to take up the business of a donation in support of the Camp Fire victims in northern California; the culmination of fundraising quilt and 50/50 raffles; plus an informative presentation about philanthropy by representatives from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada.

Special Meeting Calls for Donation to Camp Fire Victims

Forty-eight-hours prior to the November 15 meeting, members were notified that as many as 10 members of the Soroptimist Clubs of Chico and Bidwell Rancho were affected by the Camp Fire, centered in and around Paradise, California. A special meeting was declared in order to have members consider an emergency motion calling for the donation of \$1,000 to a fund established by the two clubs. Following discussion, the motion was amended to increase the amount to



Winning the 50/50 raffle was Faye I. Andersen, who donated the proceeds to the club's donation to the Camp Fire Fund.



President Jeanne Naccarato draws the winning 50/50 raffle ticket with Fundraising Co-Coordinator Darlene DeLancey.

\$2,000 and the motion was passed.

Speakers Focus on Philanthropy and Community Foundations

Following the business portion of the meeting, a presentation on charitable giving and trusts was presented by Ginny Harding-Davis, Chief Advancement Officer, and Amelia Lane, Development Associate, from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (CFWN).

They discussed the founding, growth and mission of a community foundation; the variety of giving methods and the options for establishing endowments, designated, donor advised and scholarship funds.

Lucky Winner of the Lucky Star Quilt Raffle

The Fundraising Committee then conducted the long-awaited drawing for the beautiful Lucky Star quilt hand-crafted by SITM's own Jan Bogikes. The lucky winner was Janice Labadie, a member of SI/Davis and a

past Sierra Nevada Region Governor. Janice visited SITM during our October Business Meeting and purchased the winning ticket.

50/50 Raffle Winner Donates Winnings

The next drawing was for the 50/50 raffle, with the winner taking one-half of the total collected during the raffle. The lucky winner was Faye I. Andersen, who won \$1,120 and promptly asked that it be added to the club's donation to the SI/Chico and SI/Bidwell Rancho fund for the Camp Fire victims.

A Total of \$4,000 Donated to Camp Fire Victims

Many other members wished to make a donation to the fund to assist the Chico and Bidwell Rancho Soroptimist Clubs. General Fund Treasurer Pam Robinson collected checks from members bringing the total donation from SITM to \$4,000.

Thank you everyone for responding so positively to help our fellow Soroptimist Clubs affected by the tragic Camp Fire.



With President Jeanne, left, is Ginny Harding-Davis, Chief Advancement Officer, Darlene DeLancey and Amelia Lane, Development Associate. Ginny and Amelia are from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (CFWN).



Quilt creator Jan Bogikes, left, with Fundraising Co-Coordinator Darlene DeLancey display a "thank you note" from the quilt winner.

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Drilling Projects Bring Access to Clean Water in Kenya

The International Goodwill and Understanding Committee presented Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald, civil/environmental engineer with PlaceWorks, at the November 29 meeting.

Since 1998 Dr. Fitzgerald has volunteered with various nonprofit organizations and has completed water projects in Sudan, Haiti, Uganda, Cameroon, Kenya and Sri Lanka. She got her start in the Peace Corp,



No longer spending their days carrying water, these girls are enrolled in school.

where she discovered that the role of women in most underdeveloped countries is to do the majority and mostly heavy work.

Dr. Fitzgerald's presentation focused on her work in Kenya, where the Massai women build the mud huts, gather firewood, milk the cows, take care of the children and carry the water. The men herd the cattle.

Her work to provide access to clean water has changed lives and brought water to an area that involves a three-

pronged approach: clean water, sanitation and hygiene education. Clean water also gives girls an opportunity to be educated. Not having to trudge miles a day for clean water means girls have the time to attend school. The Massai women sell jewelry to pay for the girl's schooling, as boys attend free.



Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald spoke to SITM at the November 29 meeting.

Access to water has also meant other societal and cultural changes. Men now have deeded and fenced land to contain their cattle eliminating the need to wander the land in search of grazing spots. Drip irrigation systems now provide a new variety of crops that can be traded for other goods and foods at market.



A well established by the Massai American Organization is providing clean water and changing lives.

Dr. Fitzgerald also discussed her interactions with another group living in Kenya, the Luo Tribe of Rabondo. Similar in situation to the Massai, these people have survived on contaminated water and now have access to clean water to transform their lives. A well drilling company was founded here and eventually one of the trained well drillers created his own company.

It is interesting to note the first drilling team was made up of women, who Dr. Fitzgerald declared were more efficient and stronger well drillers than the men. She explained the well drilling process includes forming a Water Committee, performing geophysical studies, and the community deciding where to place a well, usually at a centrally located well like a school.

As part of her work in these remote villages, Dr. Fitzgerald recruits engineering students from the University of Nevada, Reno to assist with the process of bringing a successful water well to production.

Continued from page 3

Dear Darlene,

Like a dream come true, I coveted winning one of SITM's quilts forever!! Please give Jan Bogikes a big hug for me. Her loving hand and skilled mind produced a custom piece for me.



The lucky winner of the Lucky Star quilt was Janice Labadie, a member of SI/ Davis and past Sierra Nevada Region Governor.

As a "has been" Past Governor of SNR, I am rejuvenated with LOVE!

Gratefully,
Janice Labadie

Adoption Shower for Harmony and Maddix Hobbs

More than two dozen SITM members gathered on November 15 to welcome Maddix Hobbs into the extended SITM family with an "Adoption Shower" for his mom, Harmony. The pot luck dinner was hosted by Pam Robinson while Maddix engaged the moms, grandmas and aunties in the room with his cute antics and outgoing personality.

He joins older brother Ricky, who was adopted by Harmony and Scott in February 2017.



All gathered around to watch Harmony open her shower gifts.



Enjoying a beverage before dinner were, from left: Eileen Fuller, Mary Beth Roselli and Patti Doty.



Maddix liked his new hat.



This might have been Maddix's favorite gift.



Enjoying the camaraderie were from left, Ana Nadimi, Pam Robinson and Niki Ewing.



Well-wishers with Harmony, are from left, Eve Johnson, Dot Watts, Margie Hermanson, Harmony Hobbs and Kay Dunham.

“Women Water & Leadership”

Presentation Highlights SI President’s Appeal Projects

The Empowerment for Women Committee presented the December 6 meeting focusing on Soroptimist International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen’s December 10th President’s Appeal project, “Women, Water & Leadership”.



Soroptimist International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen.

Committee member Scarlet Ewy opened the meeting with an explanation of the position of the Soroptimist International President, in relation to our club, region and federation.

Co-Coordinator Kay Dunham presented a slide show explaining the crisis of access to clean water and sanitation around the world.

- Today, 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water and 1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet.
- 844 million people lack access to safe water.
- 1 million people are killed by water, sanitation, and hygiene-related disease each year.

Access to safe water disproportionately affects women and girls, who are often responsible for collecting water. This takes time away from work, school and caring for family. The lack of water and sanitation locks women into a cycle of poverty.

Access to safe water and sanitation at home turns time spent into time saved, giving families more time to pursue education and work opportunities that will help them break the cycle of poverty.

Kay also showed two videos, one of President Mariet explaining the projects and their importance. The other was an informative look at the transformation made by the Mwhok Women’s Group in Kenya to grow vegetables for their families and for sale.

These videos are available for viewing at www.SoroptimistInternational.org.

Co-Coordinator Penney Leezy closed the program with the exciting news that President Mariet will attend the Sierra Nevada Region Conference April 26-28, 2019 in Reno. She reminded members that the December Happy Dollars are designated to support this project, as well as specialty pins produced for this project.

President Mariet’s “Women, Water & Leadership” (WWL) recognizes that empowering women is critical to solving the water crisis and is designed to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to proactively lead efforts to solve the water crisis in their communities.

Some of the members of the Empowerment for Women Committee, from left: Kay Dunham, Paula Ringkob, Penney Leezy and Scarlet Ewy.



Interested in making a donation and getting some “bling” for yourself?

Two pieces of unique Soroptimist jewelry have been specifically crafted for sale with proceeds to support the “Women Water & Leadership” project. If you are interested in purchasing one of these pieces, Penney Leezy is taking orders through the end of the month. Contact her at penneysitm@gmail.com.

A silver pendant (or large pin) that is either platinum or 22K gold-plated, designed by Villy Makou, a Soroptimist from Greece. **\$110**

A silver glittery pin with blue and clear rhinestones, made by Hilary Laidler, a Soroptimist from England. **\$25**



SI President's 2017-2019 Projects Explained

"Women, Water & Leadership" (WWL) is the 2017-19 Soroptimist International global appeal. Selected by SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, the Appeal runs for two years, harnessing the collective power of all four Soroptimist Federations and its global members of 75,000 in 123 countries towards a unified goal.

At least five projects will be supported on five continents that Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to lead in water, embracing the UN Sustainable Development Goals of water, sanitation and health,

The President's Appeal is committed to promoting the inclusion of women in water resource governance as experts and leaders during all phases of the projects. Women will be equally involved in decision-making throughout the entire project cycle – from education and capacity building, through to design, implementation and monitoring.

The Appeal aims to raise £350,000 (approximately \$450,000) over the course of two years and is almost halfway to that goal. Programs are already established in Kenya, Bulgaria and Malaysia,

Mwihoko Women, Kenya

In Miti Mingi, Nakuru County, 24 women farmers and project managers are being empowered through vocational skills and leadership training, elevating opportunities for entrepreneurialism and income generation for the women and their communities. Additional university training is giving them the tools and knowledge to improve food security, increase access to water and build security and resilience for the future.



Members of the Mwihoko Women's Group in Nakura County Kenya farm their land thanks to water projects in their community.



We Wash, Bulgaria

WeWash (Women, empowerment through water, sanitation and hygiene) is dedicated to reshaping the lives of retired, unemployed and low-income women and girls in rural areas of Central Bulgaria by increasing employability for 100 women. An additional 30 women are being equipped with skills to run small-scale, decentralized business projects and address the immediate water and sanitation issues of households and communities.



Stayka and Stoyka are two of the women aided by water and sanitation projects in rural Bulgaria.

Empowering Women, Malaysia

Long Tanyit in the Belaga District of Sarawak has no access to clean and safe water, no electricity, no sanitation and no medical clinic. The project includes the installation of a rainwater harvesting and filtration system and storage tanks. A small dam will be built at the water catchment area and irrigation pipes laid for farming. Five Penan women studying project management will assist in setting up a sustainable system and train villagers to manage and maintain it.



Women, Water & Leadership
SI President's Appeal 2017-2019



A large storage tank is readied for installation to harvest rainwater in rural Sarawak, Malaysia.

Your clothes are needed for Making a Difference for Women

Time to go through those closets and retire some of your gently used clothing, so you can fill it with all of the new outfits you received (or bought for yourself) during the holidays.



Making a Difference for Women Co-Coordinator Dot Watts and Carol Dinneen are seeking your gently used, work-appropriate attire for the Clothes Closet this year. At the end of the one-day skills training seminar, participants can shop for clothes appropriate for seeking employment or continuing work.

Shoes, purses and other accessories are also welcome.

The committee will be holding their kick off meeting on January 10 and soon after will be collecting clothes each Thursday. Clothes on hangers are appreciated and please mark the size on the hanger.

The one-day event is scheduled for February 26.



The Sorooptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women

Nominations Sought for the Sorooptimist Ruby Award

Do you know an outstanding woman in our community who has worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work? Nominate her for the Sorooptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women. Sorooptimists throughout the Sierra Nevada Region annually seek out women who have made a significant difference in the lives of women and girls through their business or profession, community volunteerism or personal endeavors.

The applications are now available at club meetings, or from the Empowerment for Women Committee members.

To nominate a woman, you only need to submit a statement (no more than 750 words) describing why she should receive the award. The selected recipient will receive \$1,000 donated in her name to the charity of her choice.

The deadline for applications is February 7. The committee will select the honoree and she will be recognized at the March 7 club meeting.

Unsung Heroes and Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

The Education-Youth Committee is seeking some special youth to honor with Unsung Heroes Awards and/or Youth Scholarships. The time is now to submit applications for both youth-designated programs.

Applications are available at www.sitmny.org, or from Co-Coordinator Eileen Fuller or Jo Ann Lessley. The deadline to submit applications for both programs is January 21.

Sorooptimist International of Truckee Meadows awards annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors from our community who will further their education with post-secondary college or professional training. Students with at least a 2.5 GPA and demonstrated financial need are eligible to apply.

Unsung Hero awards honor children in our community whose acts or service reflect the higher ideals of the human spirit. An Unsung Hero is a child (7-18 years of age) who demonstrates kindness, generosity, concern for others, humility, courage, perseverance or the ability to overcome hardships in a way that inspires others and makes the world a better place.

Hats and Scarves Donated to Bristlecone

SITM's busy members crocheting afghans found time to crochet 54 scarves and nearly as many hats for the clients at Bristlecone Family Resources. Their efforts not only warm heads and necks, but reminds recipients that members of the community are thinking of them during the holidays. Thank you to the generous, creative and skilled members for their donation. Bristlecone is a private non-profit agency providing comprehensive addiction recovery treatment.



December Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen

Heading into the holidays, the December Board and Business Meetings were full of reports and motions to keep SITM moving forward.

Special Meeting and Emergency Motion on November 15

A special meeting was called for November 15 to debate and vote on an emergency motion for SITM to donate \$1,000 from the General Fund to the SI/Bidwell Rancho and SI/Chico Camp Fire Fund. During debate the motion was amended to increase the amount to \$2,000 and approved by the members. An additional \$2,000 was donated by individual members. A total of \$4,000 was donated to the fund.

Policies and Procedures Changes Approved

The Board recommended and the membership approved two motions from the Public Awareness Committee regarding SITM's Policies and Procedures. The first was to implement a change to the names of the scholarship programs from the Nancy Gomes, Mary Gojack, Sue Camp Re-Entry Scholarships, and the Jack Simon Graduate Scholarships to the previously approved Dreams Moving Forward Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships. The scholarships will continue to honor the original namesakes, but the name change will more closely align with Soroptimist International of the Americas "Dream Programs"

The second motion approved revised the club's Media Release Form, used with scholarship and other recipients, along with establishing policies regarding directions for use of the Media Release Form. A signed Media release Form allows SITM the use of such things like a person's name or photo for club publicity purposed.

Fundraising Motion Approved

The Board recommended and the membership approved a motion from the Fundraising Committee to be able to offer, not more than once a month, participation in a voluntary raffle for fundraising through the end of this club year.

SITM Taxes Complete and Filed

Once again, Bev Perkins has scoured SITM finances, making sense of it all, and filing our annual IRS 990 Tax Return. Thanks Bev.

November Happy Dollars Benefit WACCS

Some \$278 in November Happy Dollars were collected for the Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra. WACCS provides a comprehensive approach with services to support women as they work to move out of poverty and improve their lives. December Happy Dollars are designated for the Soroptimist International President's December 10th Appeal, "Women, Water and Leadership".



Celebrating December birthdays were from left, Patti Doty, Cindy Burk and Penney Leezy.

Fundraiser on Tap for January 30

The Fundraising Committee announced a club fundraiser is scheduled for January 30 at Whispering Vine. The local business will generously donate 100% of the proceeds from the sale of "wine flights" that day at three of their locations in Reno. Food and other purchases are not included.

Included locations are:

4201 W. 4th Street

85 Foothill Road

722 S. Virginia Street

Watch for more announcements from the Fundraising Committee. Special thanks to Chris Fegert for her help in coordinating this event.





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Contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts
 Jeanne Naccarato
 Darlene DeLancy
 Connie Steinheimer
 Sarah Carrasco
 Niki Ewing
 Penney Leezy
 Kay Dunham
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker

SITM Board 2017-18

President
 Jeanne Naccarato
 President – Elect
 Penney Leezy
 VP/Program
 Dot Watts
 VP/Membership
 Chris Fegert
 Secretary
 Linda Walker

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
 President Jeanne Naccarato’s home

Treasurer/General Fund
 Pam Robinson
 Treasurer/Service Fund
 Lynne Catrow
 Director
 Rikki Hensley-Ricker
 Delegate
 Diana DeMatei
 Parliamentarian
 Margie Hermanson



SOROPTIMIST
 Best for Women



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 . . .

Don't Forget the Trademark Symbol in the "S" Logo (Excerpted from SIA Monthly Summary)

Did you know that the Soroptimist "S" logo is a registered trademark? In fact, all of SIA's major logos-for LiveYourDream.org, the Live Your Dream Awards, and Dream It. Be It. are all registered trademarks. This means they contain the (R) symbol. All of the logos <https://soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/> recognition-and-branding-tools are available for download on the SIA website and now contain the registered trademark symbol. As your club transitions from the emblem to the "S" logo (by December 31, 2019), please be sure to use the proper trademarked Soroptimist logos on all your publicity materials, flags and banners moving forward!



SOROPTIMIST
 Best for Women®



Attention Committee Coordinators: This could impact YOU.

Some of the obvious SITM uses of the Soroptimist International of the America logo are:

- SITM Stationary • Live Your Dream Award Program • Making a Difference for Women Printed Program • Dreams Moving Forward Re-Entry and Graduate Scholarship Programs • Unsung Heroes and Youth Scholarship Printed Program, tickets or flyers • Newsletter & Roster • Installation Printed Program • Fundraising Tickets, Flyers and Promotions • Website and Facebook • Any others?

For more information, go to the SIA website or see PA Committee members Pam Sutton or Faye Andersen and they can help you obtain the correct logo for your project.