



## The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women

The Empowerment for Women Committee seeks to honor deserving women in our community who have made a significant difference for women and girls through their business or profession, community or personal and volunteer contributions for the Ruby Award. These women also serve to inspire and encourage other women to explore and act upon ways to assist women and girls.

When we recognize women who offer mentoring, a hand up in economic self-sufficiency, nourishment, clothing, housing, health and safety, or educational opportunities as well as nurturing commitments to the women and girls, we help to reinforce the mission of our Soroptimist organization. Although we may recognize and honor a woman for a lifetime of good work, the majority of her accomplishments should have occurred within the past two years and they continue to contribute their time and talents to serve.

The Soroptimist Ruby Award is designed not only to promote the issues that are important to Soroptimists, it also honors the first federation President Ruby Lee Minar (1883-1952). A ruby is also a deep red gemstone associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, vivacity, power and love: all words that embody the strong and compassionate women who become Soroptimist award recipients.

The Ruby Award program begins at the club level. The SITM award winner is eligible to be nominated for an additional award at the Sierra Nevada Region conference in the spring.

**Applications:** Ruby Award application forms are available on the SITM website (see Alerts box on the home page). Completed application forms may be emailed to SITM at [rubbyaward@sitmnv.org](mailto:rubbyaward@sitmnv.org) or mailed to SITM at P.O. Box 20125, Reno NV 89515. Applications due Thursday, February 7, 2019.

**Eligibility:** Nominees are every day women who are making extraordinary differences in the lives of women and girls. Examples include women who established a domestic violence shelter, started mentoring programs for at-risk girls, or lobbied their employer to sponsor on-site daycare facilities. Previous award winners, Soroptimists or immediate family of Soroptimists are not eligible for the award. Immediate family is defined to include spouses, parents, siblings or children by adoption, blood or marriage.

**Recognition:** SITM will present the Ruby Award to the successful nominee chosen by the Empowerment for Women Committee on Thursday, March 7, 2019. The honoree will be invited to speak, will receive a recognition certificate and up to \$1,000 donation to the awardee's choice of non-profit recipient.

**Nomination Solicitations:** SITM members are encouraged to spread the word among their professional, volunteer, church, and personal contacts to help identify eligible nominees. SITM members are invited to submit completed application forms to the Empowerment for Women Committee as indicated above.

For further information, contact Empowerment for Women Co-Coordinators Kay Dunham at [kaydunham@yahoo.com](mailto:kaydunham@yahoo.com); or Penney Leezy at [Penneysitm@gmail.com](mailto:Penneysitm@gmail.com).



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**SITM's Past Recipients**

- 2018 Lieutenant Colonel Sharlee “Charley” Wyatt Smith
- 2017 Karen S. Carey, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Sherry Rice, Access to Healthcare Network  
Barbara Pinocchio, Moms on the Run
- 2016 Moshay Akala, Women’s and Children’s Center of the Sierra
- 2015 Julia Ratti, Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada
- 2014 Cary Groth, UNR Athletics
- 2013 Becky Blank, Aly’s Prom Closet
- 2012 Marcia Hoch, TMCC
- 2011 Cindy Hildenbrand, Safe Embrace
- 2010 Lilli Trincherro, Celebrate Diversity Endowment
- 2009:
- Maureen McKissick, City of Reno
- Donna Clontz, Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada board
- Kareen Prentice, domestic violence programs
- Perri Finch, Susan G. Komen
- Joni Kaiser, CAAW
- Mich Glazier, TMCC