



SOROPTIMIST®
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SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Volume 25 • Issue 9

March 2020

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- March 19 – Moly Walt, 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage
- March 26 – Dr. Purma Subedi, Nepal Project
- April 2 – Emily Jaenson, GM, Reno Aces
- April 7 -- Board Meeting, Pam Robinson’s Office at Noon
- April 9 – Business Meeting
- April 16 – Katie Pace OCHA
- April 23 – Dreams Moving Forward Scholarships

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon
at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$25 for lunch.
RSVP to sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com no later than noon on the Monday before the Thursday meeting.

Soroptimist Is:

a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.



Addressing the COVID-19 Virus, Safety and Upcoming Meetings

Dear SITM Members:

The 24/7 news coverage of the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has us all wondering and a little worried about our personal safety and that of our families and friends. It also has an impact on our Soroptimist members with respect to upcoming events and weekly meetings. I want to share with you what I, as your President, and others have done regarding this issue. News and information is moving fast and I want to be transparent and open to all members.

I have been in contact with the Atlantis and they have outlined in writing their extra efforts to update their cleaning products and practices to eliminate viruses and reduce the spread of germs in public areas. They have significantly increased their protocols for food handlers and servers, right down to the utensils. Contact me if you would like a copy of their efforts to maintain a sanitary environment for their guests and employees. This is in addition to our own club safety practices including hand sanitizers, gloves and napkins at the beginning of the buffet line at lunch.

Being proactive and smart, on Thursday, Thanks to Youth Co- Coordinators Pam Sutton, Valerie Hahn and I met with Eloisa Martinez in Catering to “take a look” at dates in July, with the possibility of moving our April 30 event. Last year’s TTY luncheon nearly numbered 300 guests, and this year’s committee was hoping for 350. A “tentative” date of Wednesday, July 29,

2020 is being discussed.

Later that same day came a letter from Elizabeth Lucas, the Executive Director of SIA. Among other things, in her letter she stated:



“In view of the seriousness and risks associated with coronavirus (COVID 19) infection - if you are in North America, Japan, or Korea, you must postpone or cancel all club events through at least April 15th”.

In addition, she states: **“If you are with a club located in the US or Canada, you need to know our club and region liability coverage does NOT cover communicable diseases. Holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIAHQ”.**

Many of you received that emailed letter from SIAHQ and I have received dozens of phone calls and emails from our members concerned about upcoming events, even weekly meetings. If you did not receive this communique from SIAHQ, I’d be happy to provide you with a copy. After communicating with our SITM Board members, I sent an email to Eloisa Martinez and Diane Bacus, Director of Catering, attaching our communiqué instructions from SIA. I inquired about our liability for payment under our guaranteed contract for canceling Thursday lunches through April 16. It

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Sharing and Camaraderie at the Winter District Meeting

Excerpted from the Delegate Report by VP/Program Valerie Hahn

Ten SITM members attended the February 22 Joint Districts 5 & 6 Winter Meeting, hosted by SI/Fernley.

The morning protocol was highlighted by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by soloist Becki Howlett, a student at Fernley High School. First time attendees to a District Meeting were also recognized.

An opening "ice breaker" provided some fun information, admiration and lots of laughter as attendees stood and revealed something about themselves that no one else might have known.



District 6 Director Stacy Yumanovic-Sawyer outlined the agenda for the day

District 6 Director Stacy Yumanovic-Sawyer outlined the Soroptimist International of the Americas "Celebrating Success Awards". All clubs are encouraged to submit entries by June 1 to the Sierra Nevada Region Coordinator. Region awardees will compete for Federation-level awards.

Lesli Brisson shared an update on the region's Stop Trafficking initiative. Round Table talks are continuous at regular meetings. The focus is to make Reno-area businesses aware of trafficking happening in our



District 5 Director Sue Chambers makes a point about the SNR Roster.

communities. The group continues to hit local businesses, especially along the Interstate 80 and U.S. 395 corridors, with flyers and information on human trafficking. They have a planned event in September in Reno to unite local government, law enforcement and a victim to share with the businesses/public on making us aware. Statistics and a workshop type of event are planned. They need more help and would love to have members join and help with this event and committee.

Trudy Mills, the Region's SIA Membership Liaison spoke on membership. We need to get past Soroptimist being the best well known secret. The Sierra Nevada Region has 18 new members, but is currently 34



Lesli Brisson, Northern Nevada's Stop Trafficking Coordinator.

below SIA goals.

District 5 Director Sue Chambers made a presentation on developing Strategic Plans. The session, pre- and post-lunch included a "table exercise" for members to discuss appropriate language for the categories of: Vision; Mission; and Our Core Values. The groups shared thoughts on Impact, Engagement, Recognition, Philanthropy and Future. Each table developed a Strategy and Tactic. It was a great time of sharing and provided a lot of insight. President Penny shared



President Penny shared insights into SITM's activities this year.

SITM's successful Advanced Strategic Planning that was created 2014-2015 and implemented in 2015-2016. A lot of heart and soul went into the planning. For a copy of SITM's plan, see President Penney.

Club Presidents reports followed the Strategic Planning activity. It's always enjoyable to hear what the other clubs are doing and pick up new ideas.

SITM was the club with the highest number of members attending, which included JoAnn Roberts; Faye I. Andersen; Kim Coulter-Davis; Jeanne Naccarato; Millie Mitchell; Linda Walker; Diana DeMatei; Kay Dunham; Penney M. Leezy and Valerie Hahn.

“Valiant Women of the Vote”

March is Women’s History Month

Reprinted from the National Women’s History Museum

Every year March is designated Women’s History Month by Presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women’s contributions in American history.

Did You Know? Women’s History Month started as Women’s History Week?

Women’s History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a “Women’s History Week” celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women’s Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women’s History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women’s groups and historians—led by the National Women’s History Project (now the National Women’s History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February



1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women’s History Week.

Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women’s History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as “Women’s History Month.” Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.”

The National Women’s History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The 2020 Women’s History Month theme is “Valiant Women of the Vote.” The theme honors “the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others.”



Stop Trafficking Effort Needs Your Help

by Valerie Hahn, SITM’s Liaison to SNR Stop Trafficking

SITM member Valerie Hahn is our club’s liaison to the Sierra Nevada Region’s Stop Trafficking Committee. She has been meeting with Lesli Brisson, the Northern Nevada Coordinator for the SNR Committee to develop plans and explore avenues to combat trafficking in our area.

She reported at the March Board and Business Meeting that the group has developed a mission statement that includes: Community, Awareness, Prevention, Education and Soroptimist (CAPES).

The committee has been approaching hotels/motels along the I 80 and US 395 to provide information about the trafficking issues, particularly women and girls.

They are currently working on getting posters installed in portable bathrooms at community events.

Currently they are planning a community event on

September 18 and they need some help and are looking for members to coordinate the following tasks:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Recruitment for audience | Program |
| Welcome committee | Refreshments |
| PR & Media | Communication |
| Speakers | Posters |

Their hope is that members of District 5 clubs will participate in this effort. See Valerie if you are interested and/or can provide some time or talent to Stop Trafficking.



Meet SITM's Newest Service Project – STEAM Day



Jeanne Naccarato presented the proposal for the Making a Difference for Women project.

The Ad Hoc Committee to explore a new service project made their report at the February 20 and 27 meetings, with members voting their preferences for which of the proposals they wished to adopt.

The long awaited new project, selected by member votes is STEM or STEAM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math), a one-day event for middle school girls. The project involves a one-day free STEAM Day with hands-on participation for members and attendees. The day would include professionals from the community to support SITM members monitoring and engaging girls at imagination stations designed around STEAM, with lunch and a snack provided.



Kay Dunham presented the STEAM Day project.

The process began in Spring 2019, after it was determined that SITM's Making a Difference for Women program, an all-day skills training seminar for unemployed and underemployed women, appeared to run its course with dwindling attendance in recent years.

Co-Coordinator Marilyn Pearson and Patti Doty were appointed to spearhead the effort. They began with a survey of members to solicit new project ideas and establish criteria for evaluating projects. Since July, the committee broke into sub-groups to explore topics and research projects concerning women and girls,



Sarah Carrasco presented the Dream It. Be It. project at the February 27 meeting.

such as homelessness, sports, domestic abuse, STEM, senior women and mentoring ideas.

Using the members expressed criteria they reviewed and judged each of the proposed ideas brought forward. The other three project proposals included:

Collaboration – working as volunteers with other non-profits supporting women and girls, presented by Marilyn Pearson.



Pam Robinson presented the Dream It. Be It. project at the February 20 meeting.

Making a Difference for Women – an ongoing, site-based approach to helping women achieve work readiness, presented by Jeanne Naccarato.

Dream It. Be It. – an on-going SIA program to improve self-esteem for high school girls, presented alternate days by Pam Robinson and Sarah Carrasco.

The STEAM Day project will be added into SITM's committees listing and members can volunteer to serve on this committee when sign-ups are offered in May.



President Penney presented Committee Co-Coordinator Marilyn Pearson and Patti Doty with well-deserved bottles of wine for their months of work to prepare and bring these projects forward to the club.

Member Social: Killer Recipes, Good Food, Great Company

Raise your hand if you did NOT receive a slow cooker for Christmas. It seemed to be the “go to” gift this holiday season. So, it’s time to “go to” a cooking class.

Thirteen members, family and friends attended a Saturday “Killer Multi-Cooker Recipes Class” at Nothing To It Cooking School. The two-hour class was replete with funny cooking tips and quips, a demonstration of



Enjoying lunch, from left, Cindy Burk, Sarah Carrasco, Kay Dunham, Patty Downs, Jean Neddenriep, Jeanne Naccarato, Kim Coulter-Davis, Denise Everett (former member) and Pan Robinson. At the other end of the table (who couldn't fit in the photo) were Christel Neldner, Jo Ann Roberts and Dee Ann Roberts.



Cindy Burk and Jeanne Naccarato enjoyed the class.

preparing the recipes, plus a sampling of each.

Hospitality Co-Coordinator Niki Ewing, who arranged the social outing (and took the photos) has copies of the recipes that she is willing to share if you contact her.

The social continued after the class with everyone enjoying lunch together.

An Opportunity to Learn More About Social Media

SITM's new member and social media guru Cinammon Davies, known as a Digital Marketing Ninja, was the featured presenter at the February 26 “Biz Bite” luncheon of the Nevada Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NCET). She wowed the crowd of 100+ attendees with her program “Social Media: Where to Start”. Cinammon made a similar presentation to SITM at the November 21 meeting.

Members attending, were from left: Faye I. Andersen, Angela Owings, Kim Coulter-Davis, Cinammon Davies, Jeanne Naccarato, Millie Mitchell, Penney M. Leezy and Jo Ann Roberts.



Members Celebrate March Birthdays

Celebrating March birthdays at the March Business Meeting were from left: Kay Dunham, Margie Hermanson, Doris Phelps, Patty Downs, Jeanne Naccarato and Linda Lamke.



A Record for Happy Dollars

Eve Johnson received the February Happy Dollars check for \$763 from President Penney, designated for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Eve's granddaughter Alli Christy recently gave a short presentation describing her life since the age of 4 living with Type 1 diabetes.



Time to Celebrate Youth Scholars and “Unsung Heroes”



By Pam Sutton, TTY Co-Coordinator

33rd Annual Thanks to Youth Luncheon

Our Thanks to Youth luncheon comes early this year, on Thursday, April 30 when we'll honor 12 graduating seniors and 12 Unsung Heroes. Our MC is KTVN Channel 2 news anchor Andi Guevara and our guest speaker is Ruby B. Johnson, a mining engineer from Elko. Ruby founded STEMher magazine and she's a huge advocate for women and girls in STEM fields. We'll have a free photo booth on the Terrace and lots of great raffle prizes.

Purchase Tickets with Ease

It's easier now than ever to purchase tickets, either at meetings (cash, check or credit) or online <https://sitmnv.org/>. Don't be shy about asking your friends, business associates, book club members, hair cutters and anyone else you think might be interested in supporting the youth in our community. Tickets are \$35 each and Soroptimist tables for 8 are available for \$400. We're also hoping to attract new sponsors this year and are offering incentives to members who bring in **new** sponsors.

Seeking Sponsors with Member Incentives

Diamond Level: Top recognition in all publicity before, during and after the event, reserved table for eight. Cost -\$1,500. SITM Incentive – 6 free tickets.

Emerald Level: Recognition in all publicity before, during and after the event, reservations for six. Cost - \$1,000. SITM Incentive – 4 free tickets.

Ruby Level: Recognition in the printed program, table reservations for four. Cost -\$500. SITM Incentive –2 free tickets.

The TTY Committee is working hard to make this year's event a standout. If you have any questions or ideas please contact co-coordinators [Valerie Hahn](#) or [Pam Sutton](#).

What about the COVID-19 virus?

As of right now we're planning for TTY to take place on April 30 as planned. The Atlantis has stepped-up their sanitation and safety measures and our event falls after the current April 15 event postponement timeline imposed by SIA. However, since we have no wish to put our awardees, their families, our guests and ourselves at risk, we have selected potential alternate date of Wednesday, July 29. We'll keep you posted.

New Ways to Purchase Tickets; Make a Donation

**Donate
Now**

It's easier than ever to donate to SITM and to purchase tickets for selected events. The Public Awareness Committee has implemented an online giving and reservations system that resides on our website. Powered by Qgiv, a software company dedicated to non-profits, the system is simple to use and secure. We're doing a controlled rollout to make sure everything works as planned. Initially it will be used for Thanks to Youth reservations and for donations to the Nepal project. Later there will be multiple donation options and of course we'll be using the reservation system for the Mad Hatter Tea Party fundraiser.



The Thanks to Youth Committee held their kickoff meeting on April 2. Some members of the committee, pictured here were joined by President Penney, far left and program speaker Katie Simon-Holland, center in red. From left to right, Co-Coordinator Pam Sutton, Jo Ann Lessly, Mary Beth Roselli, Margie Hermanson, Vicki Schultz and Monica House.

Katie Simon-Holland, Immediate Past President of the Washoe County School Board was guest speaker for the kickoff. A former SITM member, Katie pioneered the original "Unsung Heroes" program n1987.



An Afghan Social with a Birthday Celebration

Enjoying birthday cake with their crochet hooks and yarn were members engaging their crocheting skills while celebrating the birthdays of Kay Dunham (3/3) and Jo Ann Lessly (3/4),

If you are interested in learning how to crochet, the next "Afghan Social" will be held April 15 at 5 p.m. at Diana DeMatei's office, 1375 Greg Street, Suite 105 in Sparks. Office number 359-54600. (Actually it's Greg Parkway, south of Greg Street.) Diana's cell number is 690-9587. If you're new, let Diana know and she will provide you with a crochet hook and yam.

Even if you know how to crochet and don't need lessons, you're welcome to come, share in the "social", share patterns and techniques. Bring a snack to share.

If you don't want to crochet, but want to contribute to this project, yarn or money to buy yarn is cheerfully accepted.



Before the party begins, from left, Millie Mitchell, Kay Dunham and Jeanne Naccarato.



Preparing the cake is Debbie Handke with Eve Johnson seated and Pam Robinson standing.



Kay prepared to blow out the candles on her cake while Debbie Handke looks on.



Socializing while crocheting were, from left, Barbara Atwell, Laury Macauley and Jo Ann Lessly.

March Board & Business Recap

By Faye I. Andersen



Welcome new member Debbie Handke at the far left with Membership Committee Co-Coordinator Patti Doty and Patty Downs. To the right is Debbie's sponsor Eve Johnson with President Penney M. Leezy. She was inducted at the March Business Meeting.

Congratulations and welcome to new member Debbie Handke, inducted at the March Business Meeting. She is a retired nurse, acting today as a self-described "professional volunteer". Debbie has attended several meetings already, including donating to several of our projects. She is sponsored by Eve Johnson.

Motion Adopted About Meeting Cancellation Notice

A motion was approved by the membership at the April business Meeting to ease the deadline on meeting cancellations. Typically Monday noon is the deadline for cancelling your attendance at a regular Thursday meeting without being billed for the cost of the lunch. In light of precautions associated with the COVID-19 virus, members who find themselves ill from Monday through Thursday are encouraged not to attend, but still call or email the Attendance Committee (sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com) with your cancellation. You will not be charged for the missed lunch. This is effective from March 12 through April 20.

Slate of Officers Nominated for 2020-2021

Congratulations and thanks to the members who stepped up and agreed to stand for election to office for the 2020-2021 Club Year. (See page 2 for the complete listing.) Thanks also to the Nominating Committee, coordinated by Doris Phelps and members Kim Coulter-Davis and Diana DeMatei for their work in assembling this slate of nominations. Voting will take place at the April 9 Business Meeting. If you will not be in attendance that day, you can obtain an absentee ballot from Doris, Diana or Kim.

SIA President-Elect Voting on Tap

It's time to elect the 2020-2021 Soroptimist International of the Americas President-Elect. Five candidates are standing for election. Each candidate's resume and video introduction is available on the SIA website at

www.soroptimist.org. President Penney has included a copy of their resumes in the weekly "Key Report". The nominations will be discussed at the April Business Meeting. If you have any preferences or comments, please share them with President Penney.

Committee Updates, Updates, Updates

SITM's President-Elect and Vice President/Membership presented updates on the club's many committees at the March Board and Business Meetings. President-Elect Millie Mitchell reported on the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee to Explore a New Service Project; Fundraising, Thanks to Youth and Public Awareness Committees. Vice President/Membership Valerie Hahn gave an update on the Attendance; Hospitality; membership; Finance & Governance; Roster; Newsletter; Photo/Scrapbook Committees and the Archivist.

District 5 & 6 District Meeting

Ten SITM members attended the February 22 Joint Districts 5 & 6 Winter meeting, hosted by SI/Fernley. The day-long session was filled with information about region projects; reports from Club Presidents and an interactive session on strategic planning. For Valerie Hahn's Delegate Report see page 3.

Thanks to Youth Kickoff and Budget

Thanks to Youth Co-Coordinator Pam Sutton submitted the annual TTY Budget for this year's event, in order to stage this youth scholarship and "Unsung Heroes" luncheon. The committee held its annual kick off on Thursday, March 5 where they distributed tickets to the event for members to sell. See page 7 for all the details of the kick off and what discussions are taking place about the event in light of Covid-19 virus precautions. .

Happy Dollars Benefit Juvenile Diabetes

February Happy Dollars netted a total of \$763 during the month for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Northern Nevada. March Happy Dollars are designated for Disability Resources helping local individuals with disabilities achieve their highest potential.

Membership Updates

The board extended a leave of absence for Enid Oliver through June 30, for work reasons. Remaining on leave are Anna McArdle through April 22 due to her move to Florida for health reasons Barbara Atwell through June 30 for her move to Gulf Port, Mississippi; and Becky Moody through June 30 for work reasons.



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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, noon.
 Pam Robinson's office
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SITM Board 2019-20

Contributing to this issue

Jo Ann Roberts
 Penney M. Leezy
 Diana DeMatei
 Niki Ewing
 Kay Dunham
 Doris Phelps
 Valerie Hahn
 Jeanne Naccarato
 Pam Sutton

President Penney M. Leezy	Treasurer/General Fund Pam Robinson
President – Elect Millie Mitchell	Treasurer/Service Fund Ana Nadimi
VP/Program Chris Fegert	Director Jeanne Naccarato
VP/Membership Valerie Hahn	Delegate Laury Macauley
Secretary Linda Walker	Parliamentarian Kay Dunham



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



SOROPTIMIST®
 Investing in Dreams

Did you know . . .

How many times have we been told this, but how about actually doing these simple acts?

Advice from the  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community.
- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.**