



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

Volume 29 • Issue 2

September 2023

www.sitmnev.org

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Calendar

- Sept. 21 -- Beads of Strength
 Sept. 23 -- Fall District Meeting, Fallon
 Sept. 28 -- Waste Management Recycling
 Sept. 30 -- Queen of Hearts High Tea
 Oct. 5 -- Fundraising Research
 Oct. 10 -- Board Meeting, Pam Robinson’s Office/Zoom
 Oct. 12 -- Business Meeting
 Oct. 19 -- International Connections Committee
 Oct. 26 -- Hospitality Committee

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Second Floor Convention Center \$30 for lunch.
 RSVP to info@sitmnv.org no later than noon on the Sunday 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.



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New Members Inducted at the September Business Meeting

Welcome to four new members, who were inducted at the September Business Meeting. From left are: Patty Elam, Membership Committee; Wendi Dennis and Wendi’s sponsor President Kay Dunham; Pam Robinson sponsor, with Ana Chacon; Billie Mendiola, sponsored by Margie Hermanson; Deb Thomas, sponsor, with Susan Ervin and Doris Phelps, Co- Coordinator of the Membership Committee. A fifth new member, Heather Sloane Altman, couldn’t join us on Thursday, but will be inducted next month.



Gearing up for a Busy and Fun Fall

Fall! My favorite time of year with sweater weather and cooler days. This month begins a very busy time for our club with our regular board and business meetings, our District 5 Fall Meeting hosted by SI/Fallon on September 23, and our very own Queen of Hearts High Tea on September 30. The Fundraising Committee has been very busy refining the details for this fabulous event which includes ticket sales, sponsorships, silent auction items, raffles and much more. At 200 attendees, the event is SOLD OUT!

Since the membership retreat our committees have been hard at work refocusing our efforts on the mission of investing in dreams through education. STEAM has begun at Hunter Lake Elementary School with our own very talented Kaylyn Dazey-Harper leading the girls through the design process for building a website. The Membership Committee has been extremely busy recruiting new

members. We welcome Billie Mendiola, Wendi Dennis, Ana Chacon, Heather Sloane Altman and Susan Ervin were inducted at our September Business Meeting. These new members bring amazing experiences and perspectives as they are already contributing to the committees they have chosen to work with.

Our membership retreat also made the decision to provide a new scholarship, the Dee Ann Roberts Memorial Scholarship, to be awarded to an education major student funded by our Happy Dollar donations. This new scholarship has been the beneficiary of the generosity of our members and is well on its way to providing much needed aid to an education major.

Please join us for lunch each Thursday or by Zoom if you aren’t able to attend in person. The energy and enthusiasm within the club is inspiring to all of us.

President Kay Dunham

ICC Looking for International Soroptimist Connections



SITM's International Connections Committee Co-Coordinator Bev Perkins needs members help. The committee is looking for members with international connections. The committee is interested in setting up some Friendship Links with other Soroptimist Clubs everywhere in the world (including Canada and Mexico).

The committee needs contact information with Soroptimists outside of the U.S. who might like to become a Friendship Link with SITM. According to Bev, the idea is to increase our reach, both incoming (gathering good information) and outgoing (helping others in need).

If you have such connections, please contact Bev.

5th Thursday "Soropti-fun" Meetings Launched

For the 2023-2024 Club Year, President Kay has declared all months with five Thursdays to be "Soropti-fun" Thursday. There will be no formal presentation, just something fun.

The first installment was launched by Parliamentarian Diana DeMatei on August 24 with a round-robin of members answering questions, drawn from a bowl overflowing with questions. (If you didn't like the question, you could re-draw.) There were some fun and funny answers to questions about school, work, relationships, hobbies and more.



Parliamentarian Diana and President Kay conduct the first "Soropti-fun meeting".



New SI Branding Webinar September 28

Soroptimist International is hosting a webinar about the new SI branding, which was launched this summer at the Dubin Convention. In the webinar you will learn:

- Why we felt the 2023 was the right time to update our emblem and branding
- The tendering and decision-making.
- The creative journey taken.
- How to use the branding going forward.

Details:

Thursday, September 28

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. PST

Online event

Register

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/9e41adfc-4545-4cbe-b9e0-74a9cd1c4bdc@1b75fcc0-5abd-4b67-8b31-376c936085fb/registration>

(A link to register can also be found on the September 15 issue of the SNR E-Blast calendar section.)



Call to District 5 Fall Meeting

Hosted by Soroptimist International of Fallon

When: September 23, 2023

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Churchill County Museum, 1050 S. Maine Street, Fallon, NV

Theme: "Women in History, Recalling the Past to Empower the Future"

Registration Fee: \$26.00. Includes Continental breakfast and buffet lunch.

District 5 Friday Night Social: September 22, 2023

No host cocktails and games at The Twisted Branch, 111 S. Taylor St, Fallon, NV. 7-9 pm. 775 423-3377. Designer "Soroptimist" cocktail available.

You're Late, But Not Too Late

If you haven't already registered for the District 5 Fall meeting, you need to get moving. Below is the information. Contact District 5 Director Holly Nash for late registration

A Time to Learn and Inform at Soroptimist Development Retreat

Excerpted from Delegate Patty Elam's Report



Delegate Patty Elam was recognized as a "first time attendee" and lucky winner of an Atlantis one-night stay and spa package.

The Sierra Nevada Region's Soroptimist Development Retreat (SDR) got underway Saturday, August 19, with members being greeted by the District Directors. SITM's own District 5 Director Holly Nash presented members with flowering plants and handmade beaded bracelets.

In the Marketplace sales area, Barbara Atwell was selling her beautifully handmade quilted blankets and table runners and SITM members were selling Queen of Hearts High Tea tickets. Beth Sharp was on duty overseeing the Marketplace and all of the vendors. President Kay Dunham was serving the retreat as the Credential Coordinator. In total, eight SITM members were in attendance.

The day began with a buffet lunch. First time attendees to the event were recognized and Delegate Patty Elam was the winner of a room and spa package at the Atlantis, along with a complimentary registration package for the 2024 SNR Conference.

A variety of workshop choices greeted attendees in the afternoon. SITM members split up attending different

workshops including Soroptimist 101, Club Officers and Operation, Diversity, Recruitment, Fundraising, Stopping Trafficking and others. A buffet dinner capped the day.

Sunday morning, August 20 began with another round of workshops. President Kay Dunham conducted the workshop on "Winning Awards and Grants". Jeanne Naccarato was



SNR Governor-Elect Stacey Sawyer and District 5 Director Holly Nash "cutting up" between workshops.

scheduled to present the workshop before her unfortunate accident breaking her arm. A garden party brunch greeted members with additional lessons on using social media. The day concluded with the traditional circle of friendship concluding the event with the Soroptimist Pledge.

Please feel free to address any questions about this retreat to our attendees from SITM, District Director Holly Nash, President Kay Dunham, Parliamentarian Diana DeMatei, Bev Perkins, Dot Watts, Barbara Atwell, Beth Sharp, and Delegate Patty Elam. Also, you can find information on SNR's monthly e-blasts and on the SIA website.



"Self-motivated" Dot Watts



Participating in this year's Soroptimist Development Retreat (SDR) were, from left District 5 Director Holly Nash, Beth Sharp, President Kay Dunham, Patty Elam, Bev Perkin and Dot Watts. Missing from the photo were Diana DeMatei and Barbara Atwell.

Welcome Home “New” Member Billie Mendiola

By Pam Robinson, Membership Committee

New SITM member Billie Mendiola is no stranger to many of us as she was a very active member of our club from 2004 to 2010. Family and work obligations were priorities at the time she left, but we are so glad she is back!

Billie and her family are Reno natives. After graduating from Reno High, she worked as a bank teller and thought accounting would be a good career, so she enrolled at UNR. Soon after, she married her husband of 48 years, Mike and stayed at home raising her two boys, Brian and Steve. When the boys were 4 and 2 respectively, she started a housecleaning business which worked out well for her schedule. After eight years, she sold the business when she and Mike bought



Billie Mendiola attended the Club Retreat in July.

some rental properties and were renovating them.

After they sold the rental homes, Billie went to work at Sparks Florist as a floral designer. While there, she met former SITM life member, Jeanne Baxter who handled the advertising for Sparks Florist at that time. Billie had wanted to do interior design for many years and then went to work at Macy's. One day she ran into Jeanne there, and right away Jeanne asked her to work for her company, Ethan Allen. She received great training there and took courses at TMCC in drafting and design as well. She worked there until 2003.

Her husband Mike is a securities advisor and was at AG Edwards at the time. He encouraged Billie to get her securities license. She worked with Mike for 3 years but found she really missed the design business. So back to Ethan Allen she went and has been there ever since. She currently

works three days a week and can be found there Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Billie and Mike's two sons have lively families. Her youngest son, Brian, lives in Castle Rock, Colorado and has four children. He recently became a grandfather, and Billie is great grandma to a precious little boy. Brian has a finish carpentry business. Her oldest son, Steve, is an electrician and just moved back to Reno from Gardnerville with his wife and three children. Billie is glad they are closer and enjoys babysitting her four-year-old granddaughter. For fun, Billie enjoys reading and supervising her beautiful garden. She and Mike go to Colorado often to visit their son and family and traveled to Cabo last year.

Billie has an exciting trip to Ireland planned for late September. Her dear friend has moved there and bought a home, and Billie will be helping with the renovation and design process as well as seeing Ireland again.

Welcome home, Billie!

STEAM Project Starts Up at Hunter Lake Elementary

STEM has become STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) at Hunter Lake Elementary School this fall with the introduction of programming robots and a graphic arts section that will enable the girls to design a website. We have been invited back by Principal Amanda McWilliams to continue our after-school program for girls.

Many of the girls have already completed some of the basic coding requirements last year. You could feel the girls' excitement, when member Kaylyn Dazey-Harper began describing requirements for the girls to create their own websites.

Kaylyn began by reviewing the different types of websites and divided the girls into teams of three. Each team decided on their theme, worked on a logo, drew and wrote ideas. It was lots of fun and they were super engaged.



Kaylyn Dazey-Harper answers questions for the girls about websites.

If you would like to join SITM's STEAM Team, they meet at Hunter Lake from 3-4 p.m. every other Tuesday. Contact Coordinators Kay Dunham or Patty Mamola for more details.

SITM Storage Units Consolidating This Fall

For a few decades, SITM has shared a storage unit with the Sierra Nevada Region to house archival records and materials. Former member Carrie Porter, began the archives for both SITM and SNR, housing the materials at her office. Pending her move out-of-state, Jo Ann Roberts became the SNR Archivist, and SITM rented a storage unit with the costs being shared 50/50 with the region.

Having reached capacity some time ago, SITM reached out to SNR about vacating their half of the joint unit. SNR was also interested in extra space to store region conference and SDR materials, signage, props and whatever.

Over the years, SITM also rented its own storage unit, at the same facility to house its own signage, fundraising props, displays, and whatever. SITM Archivist Diana DeMatei, along with Soroptimister Jeff, are moving the SITM stored materials into the now empty half of the previously joint unit.

Members of the SNR Board spent their day prior to the Soroptimist Development Retreat this year moving the region's boxes and material to their new solo storage unit, which is closer to the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa.

Thanks to District 5 Director and Photographer Holly Nash.



Meeting with SNR Archivist Jo Ann Roberts are, from left: SNR Treasurer Eive Wright, Jo Ann, District 2 Director Emily Ziser, SNR Secretary Maureen Mason.



District 2 Director Emily Ziser, with District 6 Director Elaine Cassell inspect the stored boxes.

Skiing and Pawing to the Rescue After an Avalanche

The team of Courtney Meyerholz and Buster captivated members at the September 7 meeting with tales of snow rescues and some happy tail wags too. The team is part of the Donner Summit Avalanche Dogs, working at Sugar Bowl Resort, and was presented by President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato.

Courtney, a ski patroller for 21 years, is the Ski Patrol Director at Sugar Bowl. Buster, a 12-year-old Golden Retriever, is a certified avalanche rescue dog, that has served in the role for 10 years.

Courtney explained that rescue dogs are selected as puppies and work through two years of training, acclimating them to the resort area, greeting guests and riding on a ski

lift. By year two scent training begins with "seek and find" games and rewards.

On two legs, Courtney coordinates rescues with the help of his radio and other two-legged patrollers. On four legs, Buster works independently using his superior scent abilities to pick up human scents, as deeply buried in snow up to 25-feet.

The Donner Summit Avalanche Dogs is a 501 c 3 nonprofit. For members interested in donating to this effort, or having Courtney and Buster make a presentation at another group, Courtney's email address is: meyers512@pacbell.net. Donations can be sent by check to Donner Summit Avalanche Dogs, PO Box 885, Soda Springs, CA 95728. They also accept Venmo.



When Courtney skis around the resort, 55-pound Buster rides on his shoulder.

September Board and Business Recap

by Faye I. Andersen

The September Board and Business Meetings featured the induction of new members, some committee motions and notice of a committee decision.

Four New Members Inducted in September

Congratulations and welcome to four new members inducted during the September Business Meeting. Membership Committee member Patty Elam performed the induction ceremony for Ana Chacon, sponsored by Pam Robinson; Wendy Dennis, sponsored by Kay Dunham; Susan Ervin, sponsored by Deb Thomas; and Billie Mendiola, sponsored by Margie Hermanson. We're glad you are joining us ladies!

Community Outreach Planning Service Projects

Diana DeMatei, Co-Coordinator of the Community Outreach Committee presented three motions, recommended by the Board and approved by the members for some upcoming service projects.

The first was to hold a toiletry drive at meetings in October to benefit Project 150. This Reno nonprofit is dedicated to helping homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students to provide clothing, toiletries, school supplies and food.

The second is to schedule an SITM volunteer session at Project 150 to assist in displaying donations of clothing and other items for student shopping days. The date and time are to be determined.

The third motion is to schedule an SITM volunteer book cleaning session at Spread the Word Nevada to assist in preparing donated books for delivery to low-income schools. Date and time to be determined. The mission of Spread the Word Nevada is to promote literacy and to make it possible for all of Nevada's children to experience the magic of books.

Vocational Educational Pursuits Added to Scholarship Applications

On behalf of the Education/Women Committee, Pam Robinson reported on a committee decision to add to SITM's women's scholarship applications that two-year vocational degrees qualify for awards.

Happy Dollars and Other Donations

A total of \$5,448 in Happy Dollars were collected in August. The collection included a generous \$5,000 donation by Pam Sutton for a scholarship in the name

of Dee Ann Roberts, daughter of Jo Ann Roberts, for a deserving education major. Three other generous donations have been made to SITM's Women's Scholarship programs recently: \$5,000 from Deb Thomas, \$5,000 from Diana and Jeff DeMatei; and \$2,500 from the Helen Close Foundation. A \$500 donation was made by Nate Pearson through his affiliation with TrainerRoad, a cycling training system. Nate is Marilyn's son.

Happy Birthday Soroptimists

Celebrating September birthdays with President Kay, center, were, from left: Wendi Dennis, September 30; Susan Ervin, September 25; Bev Perkins, September 18 and Eileen Fuller, September 18



Missing from the photo were:



Kaylyn Dazey-Harper
September 12



Darlene DeLancey
September 30

Plan for an exciting event featuring SIA's Business Meeting, general sessions with keynote speakers, workshops, entertainment, member engagement activities, receptions, and a culminating event spotlighting our volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition and Closing Gala.

July 24-27, 2024





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Board Meets monthly on Tuesday
 following the first Thursday, noon.

Contributing to this issue

Kay Dunham	Jeanne Naccarato
Liza Chapen	Holly Nash
Jo Ann Roberts	Dot Watts
Pam Robinson	
Margie Hermanson	
Patty Elam	

SITM Board 2023-24

President Kay Dunham	Secretary Debbie Handke
President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato	Treasurer/General Fund Linda Walker
Vice President/Program Pam Robinson	Treasurer/Service Fund Cindy Burk
Vice President/ Membership Dot Watts	Delegate Patty Elam
	Director Margie Hermanson



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



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 Investing in Dreams

Did you know . . .

Delivering short, medium and long-term projects internationally for women and girls.

Step into a new chapter of impact with the Soroptimist International Foundation

Soroptimist International Foundation was officially launched at the Convention in Dublin in July. The Foundation will replace the President's Appeal and its charitable status will enable us to access more benefits, and in turn, help more women and girls.

With the establishment of the SI Foundation, SI will no longer have an International President's Appeal. The SI President will lead the Foundation, raising awareness of projects and promoting fundraising through grants, member giving, and legacies. Being awarded charitable status confirms the integrity and intentions of the Soroptimist International Foundation, increasing SI's public profile and reinforces the organization's reputation as a force for good in the world.

Reprinted from the Soroptimist International, Global Voice.

