

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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February 2024

www.sitmnmv.org

In this issue

- 1 – President's Message, Important Dates
- 2 – Nominating Committee, New SI President, District 5 Meeting
- 3-4 -- Project 150 Work Party
- 5 – NWHP Speakers, Afghans for Project 150
- 6 – Board and Business Recap
- 7 – Staff Box, Did You Know

Calendar

Feb. Feb. 15 – Live Your Dream Awards
 Feb. 22 – Thanks to Youth Kickoff
 Feb. 29 – Soropti-fun, 5th Thursday Meeting
 Mar. 7 – Easter Gift Bag Assembly
 Mar. 12 -- Board Meeting, Pam Robinson's Office/Zoom
 Mar 14. – Business Meeting
 Mar. 21 – Pending
 Mar. 28 – Parliamentary Motion Process

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
 Second Floor Convention Center
 \$31 plated; \$33 buffet lunch
 RSVP to info@sitmnmv.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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Teamwork Makes the Dream Work for SITM

Teamwork! Wow has that term come to mean even more to me than I could have imagined. After a vacation, cruise, serious illness and slow recovery, I truly appreciate the amazing team that always steps up to be sure our club is taken care of in every way.

We at SI Truckee Meadows are blessed with a strong and committed membership that always keeps our mission in mind and is constantly ready to pitch it where needed. From President-Elect Jeanne to all the members of the board, our amazing committee coordinators and to everyone who has been busy with all of our activities, I want to offer a huge thank you. The Board and business meetings were handled seamlessly, the Community Outreach committee arranged volunteer opportunities for many members, all of the details required for hosting



duties for the District 5 Winter Meeting have been expertly handled by that terrific committee. We welcomed 2 new members in January as well.

Our club year is moving along quickly with so many big events in the planning stages. Thanks to Youth, Youth Awards, Women's Scholarships are all in terrific hands as the respective committees continue handling the many details to guarantee they will be hugely successful.

As your President I am honored to be able to serve our club and membership. The success of the club is a credit to each of our members who are a critical part of the team that keeps us on track. Thanks TEAM, for always being ready to step up where needed as we continue to thrive and grow in making dreams come true for women and girls.

President Kay Dunham

Important Dates and Volunteer Opportunities

It is a busy time of year, so don't forget to get these important dates on your calendar.

Monday, February 12, 4:30 – 7 p.m. & Monday, April 15, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Spread the Word Book Cleaning and Repair, 290 Gentry Way, Suite 6 (Just east of S. Virginia Street.)

Thursday, February 15 – Noon, Atlantis

Live Your Dream Awards, Atlantis

Thursday, February 22, Noon, Atlantis

Thanks to Youth Kickoff

Thursday, March 7 – Noon

Easter Gift Bag Assembly for Project 150

Monday, March 11, 1-3 p.m. & Monday, May 6, 1-3 p.m.

Project 150 Sorting, 1340 Foster Drive (behind the Bridge Church)

Nominations for SITM 2024 - 2025 Club Year



Would you like to become part of the leadership team to guide SITM in the 2024-2025 year?

It's time to nominate a member whom you think would be good in these positions, including yourself.

At the February Board and Business Meetings a Nominating Committee was named to prepare a slate of members willing to stand for election. Diana DeMatei was named committee coordinator by President Kay Dunham. The board selected Dot Watts and the membership selected Mary Ann McCauley.

In the next month these three members will be distributing nomination forms for the following positions. The Nominating Committee will ascertain members' willingness to serve in the following offices.

President-Elect
Vice President – Programs
Vice President – Membership
Secretary
Treasurer – General Fund
Delegate

The positions of President, Director and Treasurer – Service Fund are completing their terms of service.

For further information, please contact Nominating Committee Coordinator Diana DeMatei, or members Dot Watts or Mary Ann McCauley. A slate of members willing to stand for election will be available next month, along with candidate bios. The election will take place at the April Business Meeting.



District Director Holly Nash shows off the "goodie bags" made by SITM members for attendees at the District 5 Meeting Saturday, February 10. More photos and the complete Delegate's Report will be highlighted in the March issue of SITM Update.

Welcome SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam

SI South East Asia Pacific for the 2024-2025 biennium

President Siew Yong Gnanalingam takes the helm for the 2024-2025 biennium with pride and honour, emphasising SI's legacy of education, empowerment, and global service. She champions the campaigns 'Save Mother Earth, Save the Future' and 'No War, Only Peace,' aiming to address climate change, violence, and inequality for a brighter and safer future for women and girls globally. Join us in supporting her vision for positive change

"It is my pride and honour to serve as SI President for the biennium 2024/2025 and to have the opportunity to lead SI, an organization with more than 100 years of history with an even greater enthusiasm to serve the women and girls who need our help.

The world is facing serious issues of climate change as well as violence and conflicts, leading to greater poverty, gender inequality, migration, health and other injustices, all of which disproportionately affect women and girls more. We must strengthen and harness the SI legacy of education, empowerment and enabling pathways from

our 66,000 members from the five Federations to further improve the lives of women and girls even more critically.

This has led me to champion the campaign "Save Mother Earth, Save the Future" and to seek the path of "No War, Only Peace", striving for peace in the home, peace in the country, and peace in the world.

In both themes we seek to save our planet, save our women and girls from pain and suffering and give future generations a cleaner, brighter and safer future".

Siew Yong Gnanalingam

Reprinted from the *SI Global Voice*, February 2024



Project 150 is Working to Keep Teens in School



Members getting instructions about sorting donations at Project 150.

Imagine being a high school student. Now imagine contemplating dropping out of high school because you don't have enough clothes to dress for school. Not the latest fashions, just ordinary clothes. You have no one to help, or no other means to acquire clothes.



Gayle Kmetovicz prepared shopping bags for the teens.

... shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, socks, underwear and shoes ... is the mission of Project 150 to help ensure students' success. Shelf-stable food, like snacks and easy-to-prepare meals, along with toiletry items and school supplies are also available. Originally begun in Las Vegas, the project migrated to northern Nevada about a dozen years ago. It's an all-volunteer organization with humble beginnings that was eventually granted the use of the parsonage behind the Bridge Church at 1340 Foster Drive, across from Reno High School.



Bev Perkins with warm winter caps.

The lead liaison and passionate advocate for Project 150, Liz McFarland, was our February 1 speaker. She facilitated a "work party" of SITM members to deliver



Pam Robinson displays a warm sweatshirt available for teens.



Niki Ewing arrives with donations.

nearly 400 pairs of socks and sort other donations on January 22. Eleven members joined the work party and prior to Liz's presentation, Holly Nash, Deb Handke, Gayle Kmetovicz and Eve Johnson, spoke of their work and impressions of the project, including advice for



Eileen Fuller sorting shirts.

Combating these potential drop-outs by providing good-quality clothing

Continued on page 4



Diana DeMatei surrounded by winter coats and gear.

more members to join future work parties. Also joining the work party that day were Community Outreach Co-Coordinator Diana DeMatei and Niki Ewing, Darlene DeLancy, Eileen Fuller, Pam Robinson, Bev Perkins and Jeanne Naccarato.

Stepping inside the building, it looks like a small clothing boutique. Everything is fresh, clean and bright and intended to be attractive to teens. Liz conveyed remarks from

first-time clients like, "Wow, it's fancy", and "I can't believe this." Everything is clean and attractively displayed in categories. Shopping days are typically Wednesdays, with rural high school students attending the first Saturday of the month. Teens with special circumstances can make other arrangements. Clients are allowed to come back every six months and typically select up to five pairs of jeans/pants, 10 shirts/tops and appropriate underwear and socks and shoes.

Maintaining teens' dignity is another primary mission. Volunteer personal shoppers are sensitive and respectful as they escort the teens to find their correct sizes and desired styles. They help the teens select and bag their items and carry them out. The value is approximately \$600 per teen. It's a shopping trip, but also a chance to engage the teens and ask, "Where are you staying?" Their response can allow for the discovery of other needs the teen might have beyond clothes and food. Liz is well-connected to other non-profit organizations that teens can turn to for assistance.

Project 150 is operated completely by volunteers. They pay no salaries. Thanks to the Bridge Church, they pay no rent. Donations to supply the project come from organizations like SITM, churches and individuals. Liz has contacts with local retailers that donate their "opened packages", returned goods, end-of season clothes, even printers who have misprinted shirts or sweats. According to Liz, they even



Eve Johnson and Deb Handke working in the linen piles and towels.

have former clients, whose lives have improved, bring in new items as donations. They also accept monetary donations that are used to supplement items in low supply, or hard to find items.

New clothing and gently used, laundered and ready to hangup clothing are accepted. Shelf-stable food and toiletries are always welcome. Occasionally the project supplies out-of-the ordinary requests like linens, bed pillows, fuzzy blankets, towels and washcloths, sleeping bags, even suitcases (preferably with rollers, or roller bags). Water bottles are always in demand.

To join an SITM "work party" at Project 150, put these dates on your calendar.
Monday, March 11, from 1-3 p.m.
Monday, May 6, from 1-3 p.m.
1340 Foster Drive (across from Reno High School behind the church)



Holly Nash and Darlene DeLancey sorting jeans by size and style.



Writing Women Back into History

If you are interested in women's history, particularly history of women in Nevada and their accomplishments and legacy, you can't just pick up a book and start reading, according to Lisa Marie Lightfoot, Vice Chair of the Nevada Women's History Project. "It's our intent to put women back into history," she said, during our January 25 meeting.

The mission of NWHP is to bring awareness to the public of the significant roles, legacy and accomplishments of women from statehood to the Nevada legislature and beyond.

Lisa Marie described the founding of the Nevada Women's history Project as the brainchild of former Clark County State Senator Jean Ford. After her retirement, Jean became Acting Director of Women's Studies at the University of Nevada. In 1992, while attempting to teach a new course on women's history, she was astounded to find there was a glaring absence of information specific to Nevada Women. In 1993, Jean and like-minded women founded NWHP.

A thriving nonprofit organization today with approximately 130 members, NWHP boasts over 200 biographies published of Nevada women that can be found on their website. The site also shows an extensive history of suffrage in Nevada, both are worth your time to explore.

Nevadawomen.org – Suffrage100nv.org

Sue Davis, NWHP Board Chair encouraged members to review their newsletter to find monthly activities, such as tours, lectures and Chautauqua presentations. These are open to the public for a small registration fee.

Sue shared some of the biographies of women connected to Soroptimist. Nancy Gomes served on the local school board and also in the Nevada Assembly. She was an



Sue Davis, left and Lisa Marie Lightfoot, right with President-Elect Jeanne.

advocate for the welfare of people and women's equality. SITM named its first scholarship for reentry women after Nancy Gomes.

Sue also highlighted a former SITM member, Carrie Townley Porter, a founding member of the NWHP. Carrie was a researcher and archivist who contributed greatly to establishing approved methods to properly obtain, vet and archive women's biographies. She also established the archives for both SITM and the Sierra Nevada Region.

In her travels speaking about the organization and its mission, Sue said she often finds that so many young women don't have role models. So, she reminded us that women's history is half of the nation's history.

Afghans Donated to Project 150

At the January 22 meeting, after Liz Macfarland spoke to SITM 20 crocheted afghans hand-crafted by our members were presented to her for Project 150. Some of our crocheters are pictured here. Missing is Susan Erwin.



Billie Mendiola with Liz Macfarland with some of her crocheted afghans.

Diana DeMatei displays donated afghans with Liz Macfarland.



February Board and Business Recap

by Faye I. Andersen

President-Elect Jeanne Naccarato and Parliamentary Procedures got a work-out at the February Board and Business Meetings. There were a total of eight motions proposed, recommended by the Board and approved by the membership.

Nomination Committee Named

A Nominating Committee of three has been empaneled to develop a slate of members to stand for office for the 2024-25 Club Year. Diana DeMatei was appointed by President Kay; Dot Watts was nominated by the Board; Mary Ann McCauley was nominated by the membership. Over the next two months they will be contacting members about their willingness to stand for election. See page 2 for more details.

Finance & Governance and Treasury Matters

The Finance and Governance Committee proposed and membership approved that the club roll over the club's \$50,000 for an additional three months at 4.75% at FIB.

A revised set of Policies and Procedures was proposed and approved by the membership. Service Fund Treasurer Cindy Burk proposed and the membership approved a motion to increase the Women's Scholarship Fund by \$10,000 in the budget.

Prepare to Assemble Easter Gift Bags March 7

Two motions from the Community Outreach Committee were approved by the membership. The first asks members to create 75-100 Easter Gift Bags for Project 150, with members providing candy and supplies. The bags will be assembled at the March 7 meeting. The second motion was approved to have a buffet lunch on March 7, as members assemble the bags. Cost of the buffet is \$33 and requires an attendance of 30.

TTY Tickets Available at February 22 Kickoff

Not to be outdone, the Thanks to Youth Committee also proposed two motions, which were approved. The first motion was for members to be able to sell/purchase tickets and tables for Thanks to Youth. The TTY Kickoff will be February 22. Membership also approved the TTY budget submitted by the committee.

Previously approved was a buffet lunch, with a cost of \$33 and requires an attendance of 30.

Membership also approved the TTY budget submitted by the committee.

Happy Dollars and Other Monetary Matters

Happy Dollars for the month of January totaled \$1,046 which included an additional generous donation of \$750 from the Niki Ewing Family Foundation. Thank you, Niki.

Happy Dollar funds are designated for a scholarship in the name of Dee Ann Roberts, Jo Ann's daughter, for a deserving education major.



Happy Birthday Soroptimists

Celebrating their February birthdays at the meeting were, from left, Mary Ann McCauley (February 20); Membership Committee member Deb Handke; Gayle Kmetovicz (February 22); and Millie Mitchell (February 23).



Also celebrating a February Birthday on Zoom, was Marilyn Peason (February 8).



President Kay Dunham

kaydunham@yahoo.com

Editor Faye I. Andersen

fandersen@att.net or

775-358-5149 or 775-432-5822

Contributing to this issue

Kay Dunham

Jeanne Naccarato

Liza Chapen

Diana DeMatei

Jo Ann Roberts

Dot Watts

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515

www.sitmnev.org

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday

following the first Thursday, noon.

SITM Board 2023-24

President

Kay Dunham

President-Elect

Jeanne Naccarato

Vice President/Program

Pam Robinson

Vice President/

Membership

Dot Watts

Secretary

Debbie Handke

Treasurer/General Fund

Linda Walker

Treasurer/Service Fund

Cindy Burk

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



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Did you know . . . **Walk for Women**

March is not just a month; it's a celebration of the strength, resilience, and spirit of women worldwide! And this year, we're inviting you to join us in honoring and empowering women everywhere by participating in the brand-new annual Walk for Women event.

What is the Walk for Women?

Throughout March, and especially on International Women's Day, we're stepping up to take strides towards empowerment. More than just a leisurely stroll, this event is a movement to recognize the incredible women who have shaped our lives and to foster a sense of community around our shared cause.

How Do I Get Involved?

Getting involved is easy and impactful! Start by lacing up your sneakers and hitting the pavement for women's empowerment. Then, head over to social media and share your "Why I Walk" story using the hashtag #WhyIWalk. You can also kick off a peer-to-peer fundraiser or organize a local group walk and outreach event to spread awareness.

Visit the [Walk for Women](http://WalkforWomen.org) website on LiveYourDream.org to discover even more ways to make a difference, including the opportunity to purchase a limited-edition event T-shirt

Reprinted from Mary Stuart, SIA Director of Fund Development <siahq@soroptimist.org>