

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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www.sitmnmv.org

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Calendar

Aug. 27 – Emilio Parga, Solace Tree
Sept. 3 – TBD
Sept. 8 -- Board Meeting, Pam Robinson's Office/Zoom
Sept. 10 – Business Meeting
Sept. 17 -- Emily Zimmerman
Sept. 19 – Queen of Hearts High Tea
Sept. 24 -- STEAM

SITM Meets...

Thursdays at Noon

at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Second Floor Convention Center
\$36 plated; \$37 credit/debit.
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.



Soroptimist International of the Americas Notes from My Experience Incheon, South Korea, July 2026 By President Holly Nash

In South Korea, tipping is bad etiquette. Be ready to remove your shoes. It's not rude to stand in someone's "personal space". Intense eye contact or loud speaking in a small space, however, can be considered as encroaching on that "personal space". These little tips along the way helped to make my trip more enjoyable.

So many thanks go to the members of SI/Truckee Meadows for helping me to make this trip! The financial contributions as well as your strong support held you in the forefront of my mind while I was in South Korea.

The conference itself was very educational. From the system we used to vote during the business meeting to becoming acquainted with like-minded women supporting Soroptimist from countries very different from our own.

I even received a marriage proposal from a woman from Japan! We

were all exchanging the small giveaways we brought to share. She was giving away hand crocheted rings that were very cute! She said, "Will you marry me?", as she pushed it onto my ring finger. Of course, I said yes and we hugged and laughed a lot. Later I found a perfect set of her red lipstick prints on the shoulder of my white jacket. A fun story to share during the evening.

I was very impressed with the professionalism and first-rate organization of the conference, and it all seemed to go off without a hitch! Of course, there are always things that don't go according to plan, although it all stayed in the background!

Giving my workshop was a great experience and remembering to speak slowly for the interpreters was also new. I was so glad to have Jackie Schrauger with me from SIA. She wrote the workshop and because it is so new, I didn't know the answers to many of the questions asked. I'm so glad she was there to help!



**President Holly Nash
presenting a workshop
at the SIA Convention**



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You might be interested to know, the issue we have with members being chatty and disrespectful during meetings was also a problem there. Some things are just worldwide. We do love to talk about being a Soroptimist!

One of my favorite things was meeting new people

in our Federation. As is often said, going to a conference, whether it be a SI convention, SIA or our own Region Conference, it truly does give you the bigger picture of our organization and how far the hands of Soroptimist reach!

Next year is Prague (SI) and in two years, Cancun (SIA). Don't miss them. And again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and Soroptimist.



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Meeting Soroptimists at SIA's 49th Convention in South Korea

By Kay Dunham

Attending any SIA Convention is a memorable experience. The visit to South Korea did not disappoint. After a 12-hour flight, we arrived in Incheon, the site for the 49th convention. The venue – Inspire Resort – is massive with something for everyone including an area for K-Pop concerts, enormous atriums, multiple restaurants, a water park, food court and shopping opportunities as well.

Dan and I spent our first day touring the Demilitarized Zone separating South Korea from North Korea. It was very interesting despite quite a bit of rain, 100% humidity and temperatures in the upper 80's. Entrance into the zone is controlled by the South Korean military and required us to show our passports, obtain an entry ticket and be transported on a military-controlled bus to the various viewing areas. Other sightseeing opportunities included a visit to the Imperial Palace, a Buddhist temple, enjoying street food and souvenir shopping.

The convention began with a welcome filled with Korean music, dancers and the official greeting



Kay Dunham with husband Dan above, at the Imperial Palace in Incheon, South Korea. With some new friends at right.

from the convention chair, Ohran Choe, SIA President Sue Riney and SIA Immediate Past President Ginger Cole. Each day included business sessions and workshops. Our own Holly Nash presented the newly minted Membership Growth program. Another very interesting



SIA President Sue Riney and SIA Immediate Past President Ginger Cole.

workshop introduced CLAUDE AI and demonstrated how effective the use of AI can be at the club level. Thursday evening welcomed many of us to the by-invitation Laurel Society reception with food, fun, dancing and a silent auction.

The opportunity to meet Soroptimists from all across our federation is invaluable. I made it a point to sit with groups not from our Region and to find out how their clubs functioned, what projects they focus on and to get to know more about their countries or communities. Several clubs were interested in our high tea fundraiser and thought it was such a terrific idea.



After four busy days it was time to begin the long flight home. I encourage everyone to consider attending the next SIA Convention July 26-29, 2028 in Cancun! The experience is definitely well worth the effort.

Applications Now Open for Live Your Dream Awards

By Women's Scholarships & Awards Committee, Co-Coordinator Cynthia Cramer

The *Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women®* application season is underway! The online application system is open and now accepting applications through November 15th.

The *Live Your Dream Awards* is a signature program of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Each year, the program distributes more than \$3 million to over 2,300 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, the death of a spouse, or substance abuse.

The award supports women who serve as the primary financial providers for their families by helping offset the costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. The cash award is unique in that the funds go directly to the recipient and can be used for tuition, books, childcare, transportation, or any other education-related expense.

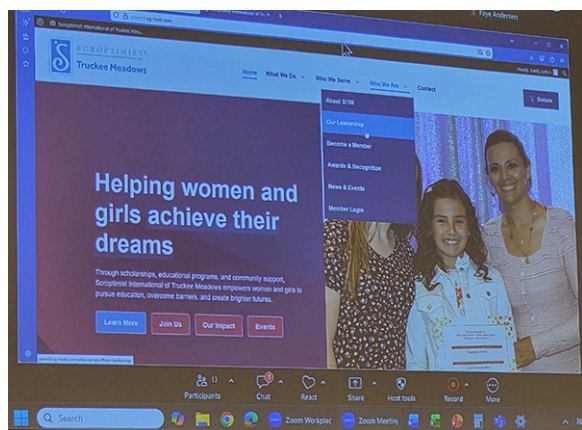


Our club will present an award of up to \$3,000 and may offer more than one award, depending on the available funds. Last year, thanks in part to the generosity of the Helen Close Foundation, we presented six awards totaling \$10,500. Our club ranked fourth in the region, along with SI/Pahrump Valley, for both the number of awards given and the total amount awarded.

The most challenging aspect of the program is getting applications into the hands of eligible women. The committee has reached out to 22 local organizations, including TMCC and UNR. Please help us further by sharing this information

with women who may qualify, as well as with schools, training programs, community agencies, employers, faith communities, and other organizations that may know eligible applicants.

You can learn more about the *Live Your Dream Awards* program at the following link: <https://sitmnv.org/live-your-dream-award/>. Please feel free to contact the committee coordinators, Pam Robinson or Cynthia Cramer, or any member of the committee.



A New SITM Website Coming Soon

At the July 30 meeting, Pam Sutton, Co-Coordinator of the Technical Support & Oversight Committee, introduced the pilot for a new SITM Website soon to be launched. The site will contain a revision and update of some of the materials already included, along with a refresh of photos. Many of the club resources, like pertinent forms and historical data, will remain the same. Standby for a soon-to-be launch.

Afghan Donations for Project 150

On the first Monday of each month, a Crochet Social is held from 5-7p.m. at Kay Dunham's Office at First Wall Street Financial Advisors, 190 W Huffaker Lane, Suite 405. (Where the Parking Lot Sale was held.) Next gathering is August 31, since the first Monday will be Labor Day.

Donating their time, resources and ultimately their afghans to Project 150 were, from left, Deb Handke, Bev Perkins, Jane Knipmeyer and Niki Ewing.



SITM Strategic Planning Process Begins

By Mary Ann McCauley, Facilitator

We began our strategic planning process Aug. 8 with the development of the SWOT analysis. Twenty-nine members gathered to discuss and identify our **strengths, weaknesses, opportunities** and **threats**. Four groups each took one component of the SWOT. Lively discussions ensued as the flip charts began to fill with ideas and concepts. At the end of the half-day session, attendees roamed the room and chose their three priorities in each SWOT. These will be the core of the next phase of our planning process. Those priorities:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
SITM and its members offer a welcoming experience to guests and to each other.	SITM has low visibility in the community as a nonprofit organization.	Grants and corporate donation opportunities are untapped for fuller potential to raise money.	Cost of membership may be an obstacle to joining SITM or to remaining a member.
SITM members share a camaraderie (trust, friendship and loyalty).	SITM has 61 members; only about a third are actively involved in doing the club's work.	Public awareness and publicity about SITM branding have more potential.	Committee meetings' times, location and frequency may be an obstacle.
SITM members learn from each other and enjoy that support for and from each other.	Club presidents and other speakers do not always receive respect while speaking. Members visit among themselves and do not listen.	More collaboration and partnerships with other community organizations are possible.	Members sometimes struggle with other commitments to family, health and other groups.

With the SWOT completed, we'll move to the next phases that will result in an approved and actionable plan.

Phase One: SWOT completed

Phase Two: President Holly appoints an ad hoc committee to develop the SMART objectives and strategies.

A Peak at Some of the Day's Activities



Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5



☐ SMART objectives are Simple, Measurable, Actionable, Practical and Time-bound. They answer — Where do we want to go and by when?

Example SMART Objective, Strategy and Tactic

- **Objective One:** By FY 2027 achieve operational excellence by becoming the most reliable, efficient, low-cost, productive operation as validated by third-party industry rankings.
- ☐ Strategies support an objective by defining how we will achieve that objective.
 - **Strategy:** Expand community outreach through increased participation in key community partnerships.
- ☐ Tactics tell us what we have to do to achieve that objective.
 - **Tactic:** Establish at least 5 new partnerships.

The objectives and strategies will be approved by the board before being presented to the membership for endorsement.

Phase Three: The full membership gets back into action through the committees. You will be asked by President Holly to meet in your committees to begin populating the objectives and strategies with tactics.

Many tactics will be activities that are an annual part of our programs. However, this is the time to consider new actions and/or revising how we implement our programs and activities. In doing so, you will be asked to identify who is responsible for managing each tactic, provide a budget, or at least an estimate and a deadline to begin and complete.

You will be expected to consider every objective, even if your committee doesn't see your committee has a role in implementing this section of the plan. We want all ideas.

Phase Four: With our draft plan populated with objectives, strategies and tactics, committees will gather again and agree on the top tactical priorities. A specific maximum of priorities in each strategy has yet to be determined.

Phase Five: This draft will be reviewed by the board and presented to the membership for discussion and consensus. This draft will be revised accordingly before being presented for final approval.

Phase Six: Plan is approved and implementation begins.

Phase Seven: Plan is reviewed and adjusted bi-monthly.

Who is Asking, “What’s in Your Purse?”

Capital One asks, “What’s in your wallet?” At the July 23 meeting, it was Diana DeMatei asking, “What’s in your purse?” With no explanation other than just “bring your purse to the meeting”, Diana led club members through a “5th Thursday” fun exercise (only it wasn’t the 5th, but who cares?) to discover what’s in those big and small bags we all carry each day.

Members were given a list of items with points assigned for the most common to the most unusual things to carry in your purse. Usual items like a pen, brush/comb or keys only garnered one point. More unusual items gathered 7-15 points for a tape measure, make-up, a USB drive or socks. The real point-getters worth 20-



Some of our overachieving members above took the “bring your purse” assignment so seriously, they brought more than one purse to the meeting. From left I Doris Phelps, Millie Mitchell, Deb Handke, Mary Ann McCauley, Janet LaGrange (Mary Ann’s sister) and Carmela Cipollina.

Members displaying the most unusual items carried in their purses, were from left: Billie Mendiola, Liza Chapen, Pam Sutton, Bev Perkins, Gayle Kmetovicz, Pam Robinson, Deb Thomas, Patty Downs, Dot Watts and Carmela Cipollina

25 points each included earplugs, a passport, pepper spray or a calculator.

The prize for the most usual item went to Patty Downs, who plucked a small, round, multi-holed ball from her purse. After no one could identify what it was, Patty announced it was a “purse cleaner”. Placed in the bottom of the purse. It picks up lint, dirt or anything small and unwanted. The ball can be periodically removed, discarded, or cleaned and reused. The tone in the room quickly changed from “What is it?” to everyone wanted one.

Editor’s Note: I found the purse cleaners on Amazon (of course). They are called Sauberkugel – The Clean Ball, from Munich, Germany.

6th Annual **Queen of Hearts**
High Tea Fundraiser
Saturday, September 19th, 2026
Doors Open 12:30pm- Tea served 1:30pm

\$65

Presented by: SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS
 Ticket Printing generously donated by DIGIPRINT



A High Tea Update

Time is running short. It's a little less than a month until SITM's big fundraiser, the Queen of Hearts High Tea, September 19.

Congratulations and thanks go to members who have been diligently working on every aspect of the event.

Here are some highlights:

\$19,000 in income so far
 150 Tickets Sold
 3 Sponsors
 14 Tables Sold

Your help will also be needed on the day of the event. Fundraising Co-Coordinator Jeanne Naccarato has a sign up sheet.

A Short SITM Roadtrip



Some of our SITM members joined together recently for a sojourn to the Pottery Barn in Rocklin, California. They didn't quite buy out the store, but came home each with a few treasures. From left is, Kay Dunham, Cathy Zelinski, Lisa Robinson, Jeanne Naccarato and Carmela Cipollina,

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7:00 PM

Thursday,

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Save the Date October 10 @ Quincy, Calif

Newly elected District 5 Director Shenea Strader (2026-2028) will be conducting the Fall District Meeting, hosted by SI/Quincy on Saturday, October 10. Director Shenea is the Immediate Past President of SI/Sierra Reno. More information and registrations will be available soon.

Quincy, California is approximately 80 miles northwest of Reno, a 1 hour and 50 minute trip according to Google Maps. So gather your carpool buddies now and let's have a good showing for President Holly.

August Board and Business Report

By Faye I. Andersen

More motions to set off the new Club Year were the highlight of the August Board and Business Meetings, along with a recap of the strategic planning process held during the August 15 Club Retreat.

CD Renewal Approved

Service Fund Treasurer Cynthia Cramer and the Finance & Governance Committee made a motion to renew the club's \$50,000 reserve fund Certificate of Deposit for 179 days at 3.48 APR. The motion was approved.

Policies & Procedure Change Approved

Pam Sutton and the Finance & Governance Committee made a motion to move the Nepal Liaison Committee from Special Committee status to the same level as Program, Membership, Fundraising, Public Awareness and Special Committees. The rationale was Special Committees are designated to be limited to one year, and this is an ongoing committee. It also should not be a subset of the Finance & Governance Committee since it has a specific purpose and specific members. Changes to incorporate this into the Policies and Procedures was approved.

How to Get a Free Lunch

A motion proposed by Pam Robinson and seconded by Annette Friedlander was made to continue allowing members one free lunch each fiscal year due to missing lunch at the last minute when extenuating circumstances occur. This has been allowed during the past two fiscal years. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning First and Next Steps

Mary Ann Mc Cauley gave a detailed and complete synopsis of the strategic planning session that took place at the Club Retreat on August 15. For a succinct recap of the day's activities, outcomes, and what comes next, see page 5 & 6.

You Are Invited to Enjoy Ice Cream

Project 150, one of the nonprofits that SITM members support with their donations and volunteer time has invited all members to join them Thursday, August 27 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. for some ice cream and camaraderie.

Delegate's Report from SNR Conference

Delegate Deb Richards' extensive report on the Sierra Nevada Region Conference, held June 5-7, 2026, in Reno, was provided. A copy is attached to President Holly's Board and Business meeting packets.

High Tea Fundraising Update

Jeanne Naccarato and Linda Walker, Fundraising Co- Coordinators briefed members on progress and planning for the upcoming High Tea fundraiser on September 19. Some \$19,000 in sponsorships, table and ticket sales has been collected. Millie Mitchell told members that there are already plenty (maybe a few too many) donations for the silent auction and raffles. Jeanne said another case of wine was needed for the wine wagons and wine toss game. Each urged members to sell or purchase their tickets and let the committee know if you have ideas for sponsors that could be approached for a donation,

Money Matters and Happy Dollars

Happy Dollars collected in July totaled \$328 for the Jo Ann & Dee Ann Roberts Memorial Scholarship for Education Majors. Thanks to Darlene DeLancey for a \$500 donation for the Thanks to Youth program.

August Birthdays

Annette Friedland (August 15) and Jane Knipmeyer (August 3) were on hand to celebrate their birthdays at the August Business Meeting. From left is, Nicole Dupont from the Hospitality Committee with Annette and Jane.



Also celebrating her August birthday was: Michelle McClelland August 14.

SITM Update

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www.sitmnev.org

Board Meets monthly on Tuesday

following the first Thursday, noon.

SITM Board 2026-2027

President

Holly K. Nash

Co-President-Elects

Mary Ann McCauley

Billie Mendiola

Vice President/Program

Eileen Fuller

Vice President/

Membership

Line Cousineau

Secretary

Nicole Dupont

Treasurer/General Fund

Pam Robinson

Treasurer/Service Fund

Cynthia Tashiro Cramer

Delegate

Lisa George

Director

Marilyn Pearson

Lisa Robinson

Parliamentarian

Doris Phelps



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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Upcoming SIA Event

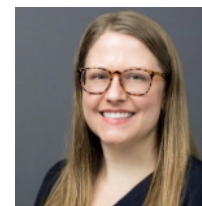
Driven by Dreams Soroptimist Membership Campaign Webinar

Be sure to join us for our upcoming webinar all about the new Soroptimist Membership Campaign, Driven by Dreams, taking place September 2 at 8PM Eastern. Learn about campaign goals and objectives, themes, and incentives! It will be simultaneously interpreted in our languages and recorded, so don't worry if you can't attend live.



Speakers

Holly Nash
Sierra Nevada Region
Membership Chair 24-26



Jackie Schrauger
SIAHQ Membership
Director