



**SOROPTIMIST**  
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Americas

# SIERRA PACIFIC ★ STAR ★

A Newsletter of SI Sierra Pacific Region

Volume 2, Issue 2

[www.sierrapacificregion.org](http://www.sierrapacificregion.org)

Fall 2015

## Welcome!

### Calendar of Events & Deadlines

Nov 15 .....Live Your Dream Award club deadline to receive applications  
 Nov 15 ..... Form 990 (and all Fed'l forms) due to IRS no later than today  
 Nov 25 ..... In'l Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women  
 Nov 25 .....Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence  
 Dec 1 ..... Giving Tuesday (an online Live Your Dream.org event)  
 Dec 10 ..... Human Rights Day  
 Dec 31 ..... Live Your Dream art contest deadline  
 2016 - A few important dates  
 March 12 ..... S Club Conference  
 May 20-22 ..... Region Conference  
 July 20-23, 2016 ..... SIA 44th Biennial Convention, Disney World, Florida

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Sierra Pacific Region  
Annual Conference  
DoubleTree, Modesto  
May 20-22, 2016

*(Leadership Development will be held prior to conference.)*



### *Holiday Greetings, Sierra Pacific Region members!*

One of my favorite cartoons shows a little boy telling his friends that once Halloween gets here, it's downhill to Christmas. I'm thinking most of us can identify with his excitement; we just have to plan and organize how to get all of it done. Our club year is a lot like that, and having a calendar and plan are such a help. Most of us are in the process of selecting our Live Your Dream Awardees and we've included some timely information from chairman Jan in this issue. Elsewhere, you will find information on the two new contests, deadlines for submitting nomination for region board members as well as for submitting proposed resolutions and/or amendments to our bylaws.

My most exciting news to share is that we have four fantastic Soroptimist guests joining us for our region conference May 20-22, 2016 at the Modesto DoubleTree.

- *Sue Riney, SIA Secretary/Treasurer* is our Official Visitor. She is from Northwestern Region, and has served as a past governor and past fund development council chair. She is energetic, and will bring enthusiasm to our meetings.
- *Susan (Sam) Buchenau*, is our Official Guest. She is the current SIA President, and many of you have met her. She attended the 2014 conference in Visalia, and the 2011 conference in Santa Clara.
- Members have requested more presentations by *Cathy Standiford* and *Dawn Marie Lemonds* at our Leadership Development sessions. We listen!! They have both accepted our invitation to participate in Leadership Development this year.

SAVE THE DATE and notice the NEW TIME: Conference will begin with Leadership Development at noon on Friday, May 20. Exact times, registration and more information will be listed in the Call to Conference, due out at the end of February. The Call will be sent to each club mailbox and posted on the website. SI Ceres is the host club. Club chairman, Carol Nelson Staley has committees ready to go!

Has your club planned time to have a conversation about our future and how we can increase the impact of our programs by reaching even more women and girls? SIA has sent a "Big Goal and discussion guide" to each club president. They are asking clubs to follow the guide and return it to SIA headquarters by December 28. Some clubs are using a program meeting to gather input from all members, other clubs formed a committee. However, your club chooses, your opinions are valuable. The main objective is to set a big goal that would guide all of our decisions, programs and activities so we could all be clear about what we are trying to accomplish on behalf of the women and girls we serve. Thanks to each member, each club, for the time and energy you so generously give to improve the lives of women and girls.

*Governor Debbie*

## SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards recognize outstanding club projects that improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment or promotes Soroptimist as an organization that improves the lives of women and girls. These awards recognize the best practices of Soroptimist clubs in each of the four pillar areas supporting the SIA strategic plan: fundraising, membership, program and public awareness.

Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards honor outstanding programs undertaken in that club year. The region governors and SIA board of directors decided in June 2013 to revise the Soroptimists Celebrating Success Awards by adding a region-level component. By expanding the program to include a region-level component, clubs need only apply once to receive recognition for their best work at both the region and federation level. The awards have been designed to recognize best practices in each region as well as over-all best practices for the organization. Each region will select a finalist in each of the four pillar areas. Four federation finalists will be selected from the region recipients to be celebrated as the best projects in the organization—projects from which all clubs can learn and celebrate.

Judging all of the fabulous entries is not an easy job. This year we had a total of 41 entries in our Sierra Pacific Region, up 4 from last year. Thanks to each club who participated! I would like to thank the Pillar Chairs and their committees for their judging expertise:

- FundRaising Chair, Pam Taylor and Past Governor Pat Jones
- Program Chair Barbara Giambastini & her team of Loretta Fornaciari and Jan King
- Membership Chair, Gov-Elect Tana assisted by Bernadette Richardson and Barbara Irli
- Public Awareness Chair, Kate McGuire with JoAnn Found and Janet Manos

So now on to the winners:

- Winning the Fundraising category is District II's SI Modesto North for their Spaghetti & Bingo Fundraiser.
- In the Program category, the award goes to SI Carmel Bay from District I for their "Necessary & Nice" Homeless women backpacks and mentoring.
- The Membership competition was also won by a District I club, SI North San Mateo County for their "Please Be Our Guest" membership recruitment event.
- And last, but not least the winner in the Public Awareness category was won by a club in our own District III: SI of Visalia.

It was very inspiring to read all of the applications submitted. Thank you Governor Debbie for giving me the opportunity to serve our Region as SCS chair.

*Sherry Pearson*  
Soroptimists Celebrating Success Chair



### MEMBERSHIP

**Ahoy!** Are you prepared to sail along the Soroptimist MemberSHIP? The voyage was released at each District meeting and you have two opportunities to win cash prizes for your Live Your Dream recipients. Sierra Pacific Region contest was inclusive with all four pillars: Fundraising, Public Awareness, Program and, of course, Membership. Working together makes us a stronger club; it unifies us with our Mission and the collective impact in the world sends a stronger message of change for women and girls.

I hope you opened your club email after the District meeting and downloaded the material provided. The link will also take you directly to the SIA website where you can access much more information to make your recruitment efforts easier. I also made sure to include the contest rules so you could share them with your club and committee members. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I have one club reporting a new growth of 7 members just this month! They used the theme, tagged their photo taken at their district meeting on Facebook and invited guests to set sail! Congrats. I will be excited to see if they will have a standing in the SIA monthly posting next month. SIA has spent a lot of time, energy and money on the new material so be sure to review it, use it, and report back on what you found helpful.

This is an exciting campaign! Remember for every new member gained it equates to more Women and Girls who are receiving our support.

*Tana Elizondo*  
Membership Chair

## **FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

Who do you know? We have money to award!

The mission of the Sierra Pacific Region Fellowship Award is to advance the status of women, through financial support, during the last year of their doctoral degree. We would love to support women who are working in fields that support the Soroptimist mission of

improving the lives of women and girls so that they will become a strong voice for ALL women!

Application forms are available on the SPR website. Chairman, Lynette Grandison will answer any questions. Contact her at [lynettegrandison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynettegrandison@sbcglobal.net). Deadline for applications is February 10, 2016.

Interviews will be conducted in March.

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## **MARY ELLEN GEORGE CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARD**

Our region has established this award as an on-going recognition of senior "S" Club members who have contributed significantly to the school, community and club while maintaining satisfactory academic standards. The region board has approved up to \$20,000 to be awarded this year. The number of recipients will be determined by the Awards Committee.

An application and more information may be found on the SPR website. If your club has an "S" club, please be sure your seniors have this information. The interviews will take place during the annual "S" Club Conference on March 12 at San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno. If, due to extenuating circumstances, the applicant is unable to attend the conference, and alternate date may be arranged with the MEG committee. For more information please contact MEG Awards chair Loretta Fornaciari at [lornaciari57@yahoo.com](mailto:lornaciari57@yahoo.com)

## **"S" CLUB CONFERENCE, 2016**

Thank you, "S" Club of San Joaquin Memorial High School!! As hosts of the annual conference, we look forward to an informative day, with some fun, food and friendship too. Save the date: March 12, 2016. Registration information will be sent to all "S" clubs in January. There is no cost to attend, and the fellowship is an added bonus. The Mary Ellen George Awards committee will interview applicants and announce the recipients that day.

The *S-CLUB* Experience

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKSHOPS**

Kate McGuire, region public awareness chairman needs your help to set dates for workshops. Please send her an email address of your club's public awareness chairman. The workshops will be aimed specifically at the club members who will be doing the actual public awareness work, so it is important that she has a way to communicate when issues arise, or if there are specific questions or circumstances to discuss before, at, or after the workshop.

She is thinking that workshops will be scheduled after the first of the year. She would love for you to suggest a date and location so she can begin planning how she can meet your needs.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

All clubs should have received notification from the region nominating committee inviting clubs to suggest names for consideration as Region Governor-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and District Director (in your own district only). Deadline for submission is **November 30, 2015**.

Instructions for submitting names was included in the notification along with eligibility requirements. A nomination form was also

included, and must be signed by the club president and club secretary and sent to chairman, Liz Silva. Her contact information is listed on the form.

Please give some thought to running for a region office. To be eligible, a member must have served a term as club president. We're looking for a "few good women."

## **NOTICE FOR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2016**

Notice was sent to all clubs advising them that any club or region committee may submit a proposed resolution and/or amendment for consideration. Proposals need to be submitted to Laws & Resolutions Committee chair Susan Brazil by December 1. Her contact information was included in the mailing.

## **CLUB NEWS**

- **SI Patterson** had two members reach milestone birthdays in October. Zora Arredondo turned 90 years young and Joel Covolo turned the magic number of 80. Both birthdays were celebrated during a club meeting on October 13th. Zora also attained 50-year status as a Soroptimist back in July and we had a special party in her honor celebrating this achievement and her many years of service in S.I. Patterson and the community.

Our club participated in the City of Patterson Trunk or Treat event on Hallo-ween. The theme of our trunk was a pirate ship and we incorporated the ship we painted for the District II meeting. Judging was held and it won third

place. Photos are on Soroptimist International of Patterson Facebook page.

- **SI North San Mateo County** will be participating in Project Read's Annual Trivia Challenge in South San Francisco on Nov 13; an exciting new event called Bag It Up will be held on November 19 in Pacifica. "Bags", of course, are purses, lunch bags, or shopping bags, as long as they can hold goodies, have a theme, and be auctioned off. Admission is free and club members will be providing refreshments. We're ending the year with our traditional holiday dinner meeting on Dec 3 at Millbrae's Greenhills Golf Club. Teddy bears will be collected for Crime Victims United.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKSHOP PLANNING STARTS NOW**

In advance of the public awareness workshops being planned for those districts that have voiced an interest in learning more about the mysteries of media, I would like to have the names of all the public awareness chairs in each club in each district. You can email names and contact information directly to me at [kate.mcguire@comcast.net](mailto:kate.mcguire@comcast.net).

Since the workshops will be aimed specifically at the individuals who will be doing the actual public awareness work, it's important that we have a way to communicate when issues arise, or if there are specific questions or circumstances they want to discuss before, at, or after the workshop.

We are now heading into November and with the holidays coming up, and district meetings just concluded, I am thinking that workshops will probably not be likely until after the first of the year. However, it's okay to pick a date and location now and I can begin planning how I can meet your needs at an upcoming workshop.

Thanks for your help in getting public awareness to the next level.

*Kate McGuire*  
Public Awareness Chair

## **NEWEST MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE LAUREL SOCIETY**

It was so nice to see everyone at our three District Meetings. With that came chances to win a membership into the Laurel Society with the new BINGO board game. We started our chances at District III and finished the board at our District I meeting two weeks later. At the District I meeting we drew a winner. The winner was Peggy Dunklea from SI Clovis! Our second drawing was held at the District II meeting. We sold 100 BINGO squares at the meeting. We actually sold 34 squares in 10 minutes! Way to go District II. The winner from that drawing was our own Past Governor Pat Jones. We will be adding \$1,000 to her membership. Congratulations Peggy and Pat.

Remember ladies it only takes \$10 and you too could become our newest member.

## **CLUB GIVING**

As of October 31 Sierra Pacific Region has a total of 10 clubs who have sent in their money and 4 of those sent in 10%. Please remember to get your money and form in sooner rather than later. Don't forget to check the 10% box on that form. If you can send them before the holiday season then you are done for the year. Remember it is only 10% of your fundraising efforts and should be based on your income from last fiscal year. That way you are not waiting to hold the fundraiser before you can send in the dollars.

Example: my club's fundraiser from May 2015 netted \$21,000. Our club giving amount for this year will be \$2,100.

## **CELEBRATING SUCCESS ENTRIES**

As the Region Fundraising Chair I have had the opportunity to help judge the many entries of your clubs Celebrating Success award. I would like to remind you that on the entry form it outlines very well exactly what is needed to be a valid entry. Many of the entries were missing crucial pieces of information to be able to judge. So when you are filling out these entry forms this year please remember to paint the picture so the reader is not left with any questions about your event. In this case more is better.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Pam Taylor, Fundraising Chair

### **DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT'S APPEAL, 2015-2017 - Educate To Lead: Nepal**

This December 10<sup>th</sup>, Soroptimist International President Yvonne Simpson would like, once again, to harness the collective power and generosity of all four Federations of Soroptimist International in support of women and girls in Nepal as they take steps to rebuild their lives following the devastating earthquakes of April 25 and May 12, 2015. The focus within Nepal will be on education and leadership. View more at [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org) Your club's contribution may be recorded on the Financial Transaction Form then sent to SIA headquarters.

Information about this project and more International news may be found in the *Global Voice*, the Soroptimist International on-line magazine. Included in the October 20 edition is information about Educate to Lead projects in each Federation.

## SPR BOARD MEMBERS

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SIA Summary:  
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[smppa@comcast.net](mailto:smppa@comcast.net)

## LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDS IMPORTANT DEADLINES

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** Application deadline for club level awards

**February 1<sup>st</sup>:** Deadline to have all club award recipients' information received by Region Chair Jan King - [janking831@aol.com](mailto:janking831@aol.com)

As clubs begin the process of selecting their Live Your Dream recipients, please keep in mind and consider increasing the impact of this award in the lives of your recipients. In addition to a cash award there are many other ways to increase the impact on a recipient's life.

In a 2014 survey, past region awards recipients were asked which resources or assistance, in addition to a cash award, would have been most helpful as they completed their education. Their responses spanned a wide range of support which included: additional funding to support further education, mentoring by a local Soroptimist member, and financial advice. Clubs can also provide gift cards for groceries, gas, family-friendly restaurants, and recreational activities to help enhance the lives of their recipients and families and build a supportive relationship with them.

Here are just a couple of reminders when selecting your award recipients. A Live Your Dream applicant must be financially responsible for themselves and at least one other family member (husband, child, parent, other). She must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or a vocational skills training program and not already possess a bachelor's degree.

Judges should be selected from outside the Soroptimist community, and judging can be conducted in person or on line, utilizing the LYD Judge's Evaluation Sheet. An applicant's references should be checked before giving her an award.

Additional information about the Club Transmittal Form and other details regarding reporting all clubs' awards to Region will be sent to clubs' Live your Dream program chairs. If your club is needing any assistance with the Live Your Dream application, selection process, or forms, please contact Jan by email: [janking831@aol.com](mailto:janking831@aol.com) or call her at 831-722-6831 day or evening.

*Barbara Giambastini*  
Program Chair

