



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Americas

SIERRA PACIFIC REGION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

www.sierrapacificregion.org

Summer 2017

Welcome!

Calendar of Events & Deadlines

2017 -18 A few important dates:

Deadlines:

If your club has conducted a raffle between 9-1-17 – 8-31-17 you must file Form CT NRP-2 with the Attorney General by Oct 1, 2017

A new CT-NRP-1 must be filed prior to Sept 1 for any raffle planned for 9-1-17 -8-31-18

November 15 – Form 990 or 990EZ or 990 N Annual IRS Return

November 15- California Form RRF-1 Annual Registration Renewal Fee Report to California Attorney General

November 15- California Form 199 or 199N to State Franchise Tax Board

Dates to remember:

District I Meeting Oct 21, 2017 in Aptos

Host Club: SI Carmel Bay

District II Meeting Oct 14, 2017 in Modesto

Host Club: SI Oakdale

District III Meeting Sept 30, 2017 in Madera

Host Club: SI Madera

Happy New “Club” Year!

I hope you enjoyed the Region Conference as much as I did. It was great to see a few new faces. I had the pleasure of meeting most of you personally. This is a favorite part of conference when I get the chance to meet new members and visit with some of my longtime and treasured friends.

Governor -Elect Gail prepared a survey using Survey Monkey that went out to those who attended. Thank you to those who responded. This will allow us to determine what we need to improve and to implement any improvements that members would like to see for the future.

Thank you once again to our Patron Sponsors who made it possible to secure our luncheon speaker, Carissa Phelps. Many of you thought she was an inspiration, especially to our Live Your Dream recipients. Her story resonated with most of the challenges they’ve had to overcome. She reminded me how the smallest of actions can have phenomenal results. With Soroptimist help and their determination, they too will make it.

I was excited to attend the Governor’s Round Table with Governor- Elect Gail and not because it was in Toronto! We were dedicated to absorbing all that is possible and upon our return we will do our best to execute the future plans for Soroptimist and the Region. Stay tuned and be sure to mark your calendar for your upcoming District Meetings.

Until then, remember to invite a friend, your neighbor, co-worker or family member to your next club meeting. Share your passion for Soroptimist. Have a wonderful summer.

Membership by Amory Elizondo

We're All in This Together

Membership is not only the responsibility of clubs increasing their membership, but also our region's responsibility by chartering new clubs. Ten years ago we had reported 44 clubs in our region. Now we only have a solid 32.

I announced at conference that our region's membership was at an all-time low this time last year. We worked together, tried new strategies, hosted more membership drives, boosted our public awareness, and got the region moving forward. We are increasing instead of decreasing for the first time in ten years. To continue on this path, collectively work together, and get to the membership we were at ten years ago, we need to spread Soroptimist all over the valley!

But again, this isn't just the responsibility of your club, it's also mine. This year my number one priority is chartering new clubs. With the

help of Soroptimist International's materials and strategies for New Club Building, I will be connecting with neighboring communities to get club meetings started. Here it is at a glance:

Step One: Enlist the Charter Team

Step Two: Determine Geographical Focus

Step Three: Community Outreach

Step Four: RECRUITMENT!

Step Five: Host an Informational Meeting

Step Six: Hold an Organizational Meeting

Step Seven: Submit Charter Application

Step Eight: Charter Celebration

Step Nine: Nurture the New Club

Where do you fit in?

Referrals: Many of you may know someone else in a neighboring town that might make a great Soroptimist Leader or a close friend or relative who may be able to lead me in that direction. Refer them to me and I will get the ball rolling.

Spread the Word: I will be posting meeting information on our Facebook as they arise. Tag, share, message the information to anyone you may know in that area. You can even come along with them to the first meet up so they don't have to go by themselves, or better yet encourage them to bring a friend!

Nurture the New Club: Join them at their charter party to show support or stop by their club meeting to nurture their development. Don't forget to keep an eye out for them at your next District Meeting or President's Round Table. Introduce yourself and welcome them to our Region.

Always remember, more members means more helping hands, more connections which means more donations, and ultimately we are helping more women and girls in our community.

Membership Chair 2016-2018

Amory Elizondo

Secretary Tip by Laura Cross



When clubs prepare for a year-end audit or examination of their books, the auditor or review committee will need copies of official meeting minutes. Official minutes are

signed and when approved the secretary adds her initials and the date to the record. This will help determine that all disbursements were authorized.

Fund Raising by Barbara Giambastini

As we begin a new club year, I'd like to take one last opportunity to thank the clubs and members for your commitment to support the lives of women and girls. During this past year, the clubs in Sierra Pacific Region increased club giving by \$6,000 and during conference raised \$10,000 for the Laurel Society. The work of all our members is of vital importance to accomplishing our mission. Supporting our Soroptimist Dream Programs is essential to improving the lives of disadvantaged women and girls



both locally and globally. Education is the key to making their dreams come true. The money we give comes back to us in the Live Your Dream Education and Training Awards money we give out at our conference.

By our giving we have given hope to Lindsay Peterson, a single mom from Watsonville supporting two children. She is attending California State University Monterey Bay working toward her Bachelor's Degree and later her goal is to obtain a Masters in Social Work. Lindsay was the recipient of a \$5,000 Live Your Dream Education and Training Award from SIA.

Working together we can achieve great things!

Parliamentarian Tip by Debbie Jensen, SPR Region Parliamentarian

Does your club have a parliamentarian? Most club bylaws state the president shall appoint a parliamentarian to serve in an advisory capacity to the board and the club. The parliamentarian is usually not allowed to make motions or vote (as stated in most club bylaws).

The parliamentarian should have a good understanding of parliamentary procedure as detailed in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. One club fills the position by having the immediate past president fill that role. Usually the club president appoints a member who has conducted many meetings and is familiar with the process for making a motion.

The correct procedure for making a motion:

Wait to be recognized by the presiding officer

"I MOVE (then state the motion)."

(Another member), "I SECOND THE MOTION."

The chair asks for discussion, then asks if the members are ready to vote.

The chair repeats the motion, and then asks, "All those in favor say 'aye' pause. "All those opposed say 'nay.'"

There is more information on the SIA website under Membership,

club administration. Most of the time, this basic procedure for making a motion and calling for the vote is all we need. If you have questions about further handling of motions, please email me at sparliamentarian@soroptimist.net.

Also, I want to wish all of our clubs a very successful club year improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Yes, our Live Your Dream Award and the Dream It, Be It program lead the way to education and economic empowerment.

Debbie Jensen
SPR Parliamentarian

Public Awareness by Kate McGuire/Leanne Davis/Joelle Leder

Who Ya Gonna Call For Public Awareness Help? News Busters!

Welcome to new and returning Fiscal Year 2017-18 public awareness (PA) chairs—from your three-member region PA team, Kate McGuire, your go-to person for help with traditional media (print, radio, television), Leanne Davis, for website development and Joelle Leder, our social media guru.

Over the last year, the team has been making one-on-one contact with every club to help get them started or to expand their PA efforts, especially with the more technical issues with website development and social media.

Happily, SPR Governor Tana's vision in establishing this three-person approach to PA led to an Honorable Mention Award at the SIA Installation and Recognition banquet recently held in Toronto.

To get the newbies started this year, at the start of last fiscal year, the team sent out a few basic tips that can help PA chairs get their club news efforts rolling that bear repeating so here they

are again, with a few updates, and remember: Public Awareness Lifts All Pillars!

- Start your new year as public awareness pillar by asking your program, membership and fund-raising counterparts what they'll need from you to make their efforts successful and when. Then mark your calendar and give yourself enough time to get the word out about each project. Need help? Contact: kate.mcguire@comcast.net
- It's recruitment and membership time! Make sure to keep a writeable pdf open application on your website and update your website's event calendars to include your meeting times and membership events. Need help? Contact: leannecdavis@gmail.com
- Social Media Tip ~ Brand new year, brand new ideas for your social media journey towards more exposure for your club. Having an easy transition is key to making your social media

campaign flawless. Review usernames and passwords and also take a moment to write down how many 'likes' your Facebook page or other social media has currently. We will reference back to that number in the future.

- Update: Please 'Like' our Sierra Pacific Region Facebook page to stay connected! www.facebook.com/SoroptimistSierraPacificRegion/
We have over 50 new likes since June 2017 conference! Way to connect! Need help? Contact: joelleleder@gmail.com
- Hashtag tip ~ For Social Media Posts ~ hashtag examples would be ~ #Soroptimist #SierraPacificRegion #SoroptimistInternational. Also make one up for your club ~ ie: #SoroptimistofTheSierras

Best of luck for a newsy, fun and exciting PA year!

World-wide Human Trafficking by Sherry Pearson

SPR Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. Chair

Did you ever wonder why Soroptimists are so concerned about the major problem of Human Trafficking world-wide?

- Sex trafficking breaks down existing community ties by removing women and girls from their families and communities. If they are lucky enough to return to their communities, they often face embarrassment, discrimination and rejection
- Sex trafficking fuels organized crime groups that usually participate in many other illegal activities, including drug and

weapons trafficking and money laundering

- Sex trafficking puts a burden on public health systems because trafficking victims often suffer from severe physical and psychological traumas which include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Victims also often suffer health complications from unsanitary living situations and poor nutrition.

"Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic

empowerment" and by supporting this Mission we can become a force in combating Human Trafficking. How? By providing education to women and girls who may be potential trafficking victims we can help to prevent women and girls from becoming victims. We must be proactive through public education and also by encouraging the crafting of laws to prohibit the purchasing of sex. It is also important to elevate the status of women as far as gender gap and equal pay in order for women to gain economic empowerment.

Soroptimists, let's be aware of the problem of Human Trafficking and let's report to law enforcement any suspected activity or involvement.

Programs by Gail Dekreon Program Chair and Governor-Elect

OH GIRL! STARTING A NEW CLUB YEAR... IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MISSION... WHICH MEANS IT'S ALL ABOUT MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE!

"...collective impact....the mission....strategic plan...leadership...women's needs...girls' needs...day dreaming....dreaming...the Dream Programs...."

Have you ever sat in a conference or a workshop and found your attention wandering? Do you doodle? Or just daydream? Every organization has its exclusive set of "buzz" words that can make newcomers and seasoned members alike fall asleep, and Soroptimist has its own glossary of "buzz" words to teach you or, in some cases, help you into a daydream state. (Check out "*Soroptimist 101*" on the SIA website).

BUT *dreams* or *dreaming* are very powerful "buzz" words. I heard SI North San Mateo

County's outgoing President tell a story about how a relative pointed out that her work as a Soroptimist made dreams come true....just like a Disney movie happy ending. This is what our signature programs, *Live Your Dream Education and Training Award* and the *Dream It, Be It, Career Support for Girls* do for women and girls; they help them make their dreams come true!

No wonder we call them *Dream Programs* for short. Isn't the phrase "*Dream Programs*" so much easier to say than *Live Your Dream Education and Training Award* and the *Dream It, Be It, Career Support for Girls*? Put that in your elevator speech about what we Soroptimists do and you won't put your audience to sleep!

Instead they will all say "aaaahhh."

Start contacting colleges, universities and technical schools NOW to get the word out that your clubs are seeking applicants for the *Live Your Dream Education and Training Award*. Search out high school teachers, counselors, principals, directors of youth organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs or Girls on the Run to establish partnerships: let those organizations bring in the high school girls so your Soroptimist Club can use the *Dream It, Be It, Career Support for Girls* mentoring materials to help those girls realize their dreams.

Enjoy the Summer, Soroptimists!

District III

Greetings from District III!

It's hard to believe our region conference is already a month behind us! I had such a great time at conference. I enjoyed getting to know so many of you better and meeting new friends.

Congratulations to all of the new officers for the 2017-2018 club year. I look forward to

working with you, especially the presidents as we begin our new year.

It is important that you send the information on the Directory Update Forms you've been given, if you haven't done so already. This will help us get our region directory up to date so it can be available to

everyone on the region website right away.

I am looking forward to our District III meeting on September 30th in Madera. Look for the "Call to District III Meeting" in August!

Hope your summer is fabulous!
Janet Manos
District III Director

SPR BOARD MEMBERS

Governor Tana Elizondo
spgovernor@soroptimist.net

Governor Elect Gail Dekreon
spgovernorelect@soroptimist.net

Secretary Laura Cross
spsecretary@soroptimist.net

Treasurer Charlie Rodgers
sptreasurer@soroptimist.net

Parliamentarian Debbie Jensen
spparliamentarian@soroptimist.net

District I Director Jan King
spdistrict1director@soroptimist.net

District II Director Yolanda Rivera
spdistrict2director@soroptimist.net

District III Director Janet Manos
spdistrict3director@soroptimist.net

SIA Summary:
<http://www.soroptimistsummary.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Donna Swedberg SIW

District II

District II, is it hot enough for you?? Yes, we're almost half way through summer. Wow, time just speeds by!

A few words on our 41st SPR Annual Spring Conference. Was it awesome or what?

I walked away feeling pumped up, rejuvenated and happy that everything went so smoothly. We had awesome guest speakers, the best fun Friday night, and everything in between! We hope you had the best of times, and we hope all you presidents enjoyed your tiaras!

June was a very busy month, not just for conference but for all the beautiful and inspiring club installations.

I was so delighted to attend at least seven of District II club installations and next year I hope to attend all 10! Or, maybe 11?

Yes, SI Turlock is ready to be chartered! They reached 13 members on July 6th and they will become Sierra Pacific Region's 33rd club on July 29th.

Congratulations to SI Twain Harte celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a lovely dinner at Twain Harte Golf Club. It was a pleasure to celebrate with you!

I hope everyone had a happy and safe 4th of July, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the District II Meeting on October 14.

Yolanda Rivera
District II Director

District I

As our club year draws to an end, we've had wonderful opportunities to gather together and celebrate our achievements: Live Your Dream Award events, Installations, Club Anniversaries, and of course, Spring Conference.

This year District I clubs have grown their Programs, expanded their Public Awareness and Fundraising efforts, and hosted Membership events and Orientations. Many clubs took time to evaluate their projects and find smarter ways to achieve their goals. Some took bold steps to revamp long-

standing projects and make them more current and relevant to their members and our mission. In all, they worked creatively to meet new challenges.

They also utilized the expertise of our Pillar Committees to enhance their club's impact, and set the foundation for an even greater year ahead.

So congratulations and thank you to the amazing District I Soroptimists of San Francisco, North San Mateo County, Santa Clara-Silicon Valley, Los Gatos-Saratoga, Capitola by the Sea, Watsonville, Salinas, Carmel Bay, and San Luis Obispo for your leadership, your commitment, your

creativity, your hard work (and play), and your dedication to the women and girls we serve.

What's our next challenge? To make next year's efforts go even farther in affecting the lives of women and girls in our communities and beyond. Together we can do this. Let's MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Wishing you all a Fulfilling and Fun 2017-2018.

Jan King
District I Director