



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Americas

# SIERRA PACIFIC REGION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 4

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

Spring 2018

## Welcome!

### Calendar of Events & Deadlines

#### May 2018

- 3 President-elect ballots due at headquarters
- 3 Sierra Pacific Region Board Meeting
- 4-6 42<sup>nd</sup> Sierra Pacific Region Conference Springhill Suites-Marriott Paso Robles/Atascadero
- 6 New Region Board orientation meeting
- 16 2018-2019 dues payment information sent from headquarters this week
- 31 "All Aboard the MemberSHIP" campaign phase 3 ends

#### June 2018

- 1 *Dream It, Be It* club reporting due to SIAHQ
- 1 *Dream it, Be it* project evaluation information due to headquarters
- 1 *Dream it, Be it* region transmittals due to headquarters

#### July 2018

- 1 2018-19 Dues, Form 200—New Officer information due at headquarters
- 1 Soroptimists Celebrating Success Award entries due to region
- 15 Live Your Dream Awards online application opens
- 27 SIA Board of Directors Orientation, InterContinental Yokohama Grand Hotel, Japan
- 28-29 SIA Board of Directors Meeting, InterContinental Yokohama Grand Hotel, Japan
- 30-31 45<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Pacifico Yokohama Convention Center, Japan (Continues in August)

The Sierra Pacific Region "Call" has been sent, all deadlines have passed and guests from the South, Mid-West and the East will be arriving soon. I hope you are as excited as I am to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Region Conference.

I would like to bring to your attention an update to the tentative agenda that was in the "Call". I have added an informal question-and-answer segment at the end of the Leadership Friday afternoon. This will allow time for those who have questions about the Region finances or the proposed dues increase.

Moving on from Conference mode to Convention, is your passport valid? SIA has spent many hours working out the kinks with the online registration process. They have certainly appreciated our patience during the process. If you haven't registered yet, there is still time. Take advantage of the opportunity; it might be another 20 years before we return to Japan.

With the weather getting increasingly warmer, it only means the end of my term is also near. I can't express enough gratitude for the opportunity that allowed me to serve. I learned so much, made a few mistakes along the way, received unending support and developed a lifetime of friendships along the way.

I was challenged as much as I brought challenges to many clubs to "work as one". Together our impact made in the communities we serve supports a collective consciousness. We are mindful of our Mission to serve women and girls thus making our communities stronger and better.

I look forward to incoming Governor Gail's leadership and ask that you continue to support her and the 2018-2020 Region Board. Together we make dreams come true. Thank you. It's been an honor and privilege to serve.

Governor  
Tana

## Parliamentarian's Tip

Our clubs are in the process of electing officers for the 2018-19 club year. The position of parliamentarian is by appointment and is an important one! Usually, the incoming club president appoints a parliamentarian whose term is one year. How do you find a member to serve in this position? Most past presidents have a good understanding of

how motions are handled. That is the main role of the parliamentarian at the club level.

Perhaps using a portion of an upcoming meeting to review how motions are made, discussed and voted on would be helpful for your club members. The SIA website has guidelines for club

parliamentarians in the membership section under club administration.

See you at Conference! Be ready to observe parliamentary procedure in action at our business meeting.

Debbie Jensen  
Region Parliamentarian

## Budgeting for the New Club Year by Charlie Rodgers

Spring is in the air and now's the time to start working on your 2018-2019 Club Budget. Your club's finance or budget committee needs to prepare a budget that accurately reflects your club activities while keeping your club's non-profit status in mind ([SIA's 501c3 Organizations: Fundraising, the IRS & State Law](#)). The committee should review the actual income and expenses for the previous two years to help determine appropriate amounts to use in the budget.

When projecting income, look at all areas of club revenues. These include dues, special assessments, interest, donation and any fundraising. Take the time to evaluate if your current dues & fees will cover the recently announced Soroptimist International of the America increases (\$4.06) and well as the projected Sierra Pacific Region increase (\$14).

On the Expense side, there are three general areas to consider. This is also the time to evaluate all club programs and how they fit into the Soroptimist Mission.

- General expenses needed to operate the club: includes Officers' & standing committee expenses, printing (newsletters, bylaws, rosters, brochures, etc.) and professional fees (PO Box, bank fees, accounting fees, etc.)
- General membership dues & fees: includes SIA dues & fees (remember the \$4 increase plus an additional 6 cents for Founders Pennies for another year), the potential SPR dues & fees (\$25 dues, \$5 Fellowship) and club dues, delegate expenses for region conferences and SIA conventions and other member education meetings

- General program and services expenses: includes Live Your Dream awards, Dream it Be It program and any other club awards and scholarships; donations to SIA for Club Giving (Founder's Pennies can also be paid here); public awareness expenses, other club projects and any program speaker honoraria

I'd also like to take the opportunity to invite any incoming or outgoing Treasurers and Presidents to attend the "Be a Savvy and Smart Club Treasurer" workshop at the SPR Conference. This will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm. I'll be covering Treasurer Duties, the 2018-2019 Club Treasurer Calendar and much more.

## Fund Raising by Barbara Giambastini

Being a Soroptimist means being a part of a global community working to make change happen for women and girls and ending gender inequality in the twenty-one countries that belong to our federation.

By making a club-giving contribution of at least 10% of what your club raises locally in the name of Soroptimist, you are joining with all the other



clubs in saying 90% of what we have raised in our community stays here to support our

important women and girl focused programs.

Ten percent is going to help the dream programs our global organization is known for, enabling us to deliver on our mission to make the world a better place for women and girls.

WORKING AS ONE, we are a global force for change!

## Membership Capacity Inventory by Amory Marple (Elizondo)

A capacity inventory is an indispensable tool for clubs—it helps members to learn about each other's strengths and assets. It uncovers a great pool of already-existing resources that you can mobilize to approach problems and projects! Consider using this inventory at the end of your club year as you start assigning tasks to committees for the next club year. It will generate a positive dialogue about your club's strengths before getting bogged down in daunting conversations about the things you need to accomplish! This will change the conversation and boost morale; when you do begin talking about problems and projects, you'll already know what resources your club has on hand that will help you solve them.

You can find the Member Capacity Inventory Form on our Region

website under Membership Resources. Ask every member to fill out the form. If you don't ask, you could never learn what hidden talents a club member has because not everyone feels comfortable talking about her abilities and experiences or speaking up in a club meeting. This process allows each member to think about and share what she has to offer to the club, as well as what she wants to learn!

Once everyone has completed the capacity inventory survey, have an officer or committee review the inventory sheets, and share the findings with the club. From there, you can match up members who can work collaboratively on projects related to skill sets they share, and you can pair members who may be able to teach each other something new. Find ways to apply the resources your club members hold to your big goals and projects. This

inventory will make problem-solving easier and will lead to personal growth and relationship-building as members learn from one another.

This tool can also be an invaluable way to get to know a new or prospective member. Keep it in mind when you start the new year and plan out your orientations. Ask new members to fill out the form. Once you know her skills and interests, you can assign her to committees that you know she'll enjoy, and introduce her to members that may be able to train her or learn something new from her!

If you have questions about the form, please don't hesitate to email me.

Membership Chair 2016-2018  
Amory Marple (Elizondo)  
sprmembership@soroptimist.net

# Spring Forward and Celebrate Public Awareness

By Leanne Davis/Joelle Leder Rule/Kate McGuire

Spring is here! Our Sierra Pacific Region (SPR) Soroptimist clubs are getting ready to nominate and elect new slates of officers and start off on an exciting new fiscal year.

But wait!

Let's take a few moments to celebrate all the accomplishments we have shared over the last year or two. As we recently collected the data for our Shaping The Future Awards, we were blown away by the progress our clubs are making in learning and using all the public awareness (PA) tools available to them.

The last two years, your region PA team has offered to teach you how to post items on Facebook, create websites, and write and send press releases. Every month we followed up with Pillar Posts to give you ongoing tips and share any new ways we discovered to extend your PA efforts. Many of you

have taken us up on our offer and implemented some of our tips, and we are happy to say—it's paying off.

Nearly all clubs have websites and Facebook (FB) pages and continue to regularly write and issue press releases that get published. Most are also using the new stylized S Soroptimist logo on their marketing collateral including pamphlets, flyers and brochures. And, you are posting to and liking FB pages—Bravo!

If you're passing on your PA duties to a new chair in the new fiscal year, be sure to share all the learning guides and pillar post tips with your successor. If you don't have those instructions, let us know and we'll put them in a folder and send them to you.

As the PA chair for your club, you have to always be aware of your Club's activities and look for opportunities to

communicate critical information about those events to your local community. You also have to enjoy writing those messages in press releases, on your website and FB pages, hoping you can inspire readers to participate or at least learn what a Soroptimist is and what she does. It's a noble and critical function.

Your current region PA team has been honored to help our SPR clubs learn new skills and expand the Soroptimist mission and increase the collective impact. Keep up the good work!

But wait!

Before you go, it's time to do clean up and add your posts on your website and Facebook pages and support your Club's programs, fundraising, and membership pillars so those filling your shoes, will be ready to go.

## Secretary's Tip

Minutes are the legal record of the proceedings of the club and must never be destroyed. When minutes are approved, the secretary annotates the original file copy with any corrections in

the margin, then adds initials and writes "Approved", along with the date. This becomes the permanent record.

Laura Cross  
Region Secretary



# Remember LiveYourDream.org????

by Gail Dekreon Program Chair and Governor-Elect

At one of our Region Conferences, we pushed to get all the Soroptimists in our Region to sign up for the new **LiveYourDream.org** online community.

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) realized that the needs of women and girls far outstripped the organization's capacity. So in 2012, SIA launched *LiveYourDream.org* as an **extended digital branch** for volunteers and activists interested in taking action to help women and girls—particularly as it pertains to gaining access to education and living free from violence.

If you don't have a Soroptimist club near you, or your personal life interferes with your ability to take part in club activities you can join the "on-line" community of Soroptimists, take part in their *calls to action* and make a **BIG** difference in the lives of women and girls!

*LiveYourDream.org* as an online volunteer and activist **network** offers flexible action opportunities to improve the lives of women and girls by providing advocacy and action call-outs to spread awareness about causes such as access to education, empowering girls, and ending violence against women.



You choose your cause and course of action based on how much time you have.

*LiveYourDream.org* gives you the tools to take action in your community; whether it's speaking up on social media, making a donation, signing petitions, printing and posting flyers, or working one-on-one with a woman in need—you choose how you'd like to make a difference on your own time. The goal is to connect, mobilize, and empower a passionate community of activists and volunteers to take action for women and girls.

*Teamwork makes the dream work.* That's certainly true of our online and club based Soroptimist community, where the efforts of individuals add up to something much bigger!

Check out the impact that we Soroptimists have made with our community of loyal supporters, working to make the world a better place for women and girls:

- 90,000 people have joined the online community since it launched.
- 67,000 total actions have been taken to help women and girls
- 20,000 girls were empowered through the *Dream It, Be It* mentoring program
- \$30,000,000 (yes, \$30 million) in education grants were given to tens of thousands of women since 1972
- Millions of people have become more inspired by real stories and hopeful news found on our *Your Dream* blog

We believe there is strength in numbers and that collectively we have the power to help other women and girls to live their dreams. As Soroptimists and change agents, you are very much a part of this initiative as we work together to increase our impact and expand our reach! We love and appreciate your support. We sometimes act like it's NBD, but the fact is, this is a **PRETTY BIG DEAL**. Our activists are beyond amazing. You've done so much to help women and girls reach their full potential, be free from violence, and live their dreams. *LiveYourDream.org* is powered by Soroptimists!

## SIA Membership Article

As you may know, we heard from several clubs and members about their concern over our use of the word “disadvantaged” to describe our target of women and girls. We took this matter up with your Board of Directors at our March meeting. Your Board approved the below statement.

We have officially stopped using the word disadvantaged, and we have begun implementing a plan to inform all our members, beginning with an article in the upcoming *Best for Women* newsletter.

We appreciate everyone who brought their concerns to our attention and are pleased to provide this solution.

*Use of the word  
“disadvantaged.”*

*You may have noticed that recently SIA started to use the phrase “disadvantaged women and girls” to describe the population we target. We began using this phrase when we realized not all our clubs and leaders were on the same page when it came to identifying the women and girls we want to help. We took our cue from the United Nations—which uses this term to describe women and girls most in need of assistance—to help educate our members, clubs and leaders. We have heard from several members that they found the use of this term offensive because it labels our target population of women and girls. It was never our intention to*

*disrespect the amazing women and girls we serve. We have taken the objections seriously and have changed the phrase we use to describe our target population to: **women and girls who face obstacles such as poverty, violence and teen pregnancy.** We thank our members who took the time to bring their objections to our attention.*

Sincerely,

Iesha Brown  
Senior Director of Membership  
and Leadership Development  
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## Are You Planning to Go?



Early registration closes May 30<sup>th</sup>. Information:  
<https://www.soroptimist.org/members/meetings/meetings.html>

**SOROPTIMIST'S  
45<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION**

**YOKOHAMA, JAPAN JULY 30-AUGUST 2, 2018**

## District I

It's spring, and spring evokes a time of renewed hope and new beginnings. In springtime, many of our clubs honor their Live Your Dream awardees and celebrate the new beginnings these heroic women have created in their lives. Clubs are also holding elections to choose their new leaders for the coming year. They are celebrating their successes and planning strategies for their future.

We Soroptimists have completed our "Celebrating

Success" and "Shaping the Future" documents, two key elements in reviewing our accomplishments and mapping our goals. Our upcoming Spring Conference will provide an excellent opportunity to develop our knowledge and skills, discuss our future, network and share ideas, and have FUN together!

As an outgoing member of your SPR Board, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It has been an honor to meet so many

of you and see the great things your clubs are doing. Your commitment to our mission is unequalled.

May this spring blossom into a renewed commitment to continued growth in our membership, our fundraising, and ultimately the number of women and girls we serve.

Happy Spring!

Jan King, District I Director

## District II

Spring Greetings Everyone,

Yes, the last newsletter I wrote was in January and here it is springtime in the Sierra Pacific Region! I hope you all had a Happy Easter, a Fun April Fools, and are enjoying this week's beautiful Spring weather.

All clubs in District II have been extremely busy and I would like to give kudos to the following:

SI Amador for their Grand High Tea fundraiser held in February,

SI Calaveras for their Paint & Sip Fundraiser held in January

SI Ceres for Celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

SI Lodi for their Spring Bingo fundraiser held this March

SI Manteca for their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in February and recruiting 14 new members! Way to go, Manteca!

SI Modesto for holding their Live Your Dream Awards and Scholarship Awards in conjunction with a Luncheon for Life Members

SI Modesto-North for their upcoming plans for their Dream It Is It event.

SI Oakdale for their Motor Madness fundraiser held this March

SI Patterson for their Martini Mayhem fundraiser held this March

SI Ceres their upcoming Grapes - & Hops fundraiser to be held in April

SI Turlock and their upcoming Membership Mixer planned for April

And Twain Harte for their All You Can Eat Crab fundraiser.

Congratulations for all your challenging work and look forward to seeing you this year at our spring Conference in May

As District Director I have enjoyed my two years of service in this capacity and hoped I served you well. I love all the new friendships I made these last two years and look forward to continuing our fellowship empowering Women and Girls.

Yolanda Rivera  
District II

## SPR BOARD MEMBERS

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

Newsletter Editor: Donna Svedberg SIW

## District III

Springtime finds us just a month away from our Region Conference in Atascadero. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. This date also marks the last quarter of the fiscal year! Wow! That time really flew by! I have two club visits left before the end of this fiscal year, but I want to thank all of the clubs I have visited for your "hospitality". It has been fun to see how each club operates and handles their tasks just a little bit differently and I am grateful to have learned from all of you.

It is inspiring to see so many women dedicated to our mission of improving the lives of women and girls. I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments at the Region Conference.

Best wishes,

Janet Manos  
District III Director

## Questions????



Do you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming financial changes happening at Federation or Region level? Join us at the conclusion of the Leadership Development Program for a question and answer session.

## Did You Know???

Did you know that most libraries in California will help adults seek their General Education Diploma? (GED) For those of you who work with Women Shelters and they don't know where to start, this is a perfect solution.

The link to the right will provide you with the list of all the public California State Libraries throughout the state that has the Career Online High School. Participants that complete the program receive an actual accredited high school diploma.

<http://www.careeronlinehs.gale.com/ca/find-library/>

