



Soroptimist
International
of The Sierras

November /
December
2012

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

A message from our president

By Vikki Piper



While I was sick and missed the Soup & Salad lunch, I want to thank everyone for their hard work. As I said in our last newsletter, it is only through our fundraising efforts that we can continue to do all of our good works in the community. So, thank you one and all.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I have been pondering all that I am thankful for. I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful for the bounties life has brought me. I am especially thankful for the wonderful women I have met through Soroptimist. All of you have made a real difference in my life.

You have allowed me to share with you the joys of giving to our community. You have given me friendship and support in difficult times. You have laughed with me in the good times. And oh, how I love to laugh! You have made me realize how fortunate my life is to be in a loving relationship, in a warm home, with plenty food, and no fear of violence. And help me realize how many women cannot say the same....

As the holidays approach, our club will be very busy. We have Military packages, Christmas Tree Auction, Breakfast with Santa, and our own Christmas party. The Education committee will be gearing up to look at applications and to find volunteers for the Academic Decathlon. All of the committees will be busy come the new year, but more on that in the next newsletter.

I know the holidays are very busy times, but volunteer when you can.

As Thanksgiving rapidly approaches, I will leave you with two quotes.

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice." - Meister Eckhart

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

District III Meeting Lemoore October 13th 2012

By Cass Adelsback



If I learned nothing else from the District meeting, it is that The Federation is moving the mission inward. They are looking forward with a new perspective, a new strategic plan. It is a global plan for women and girls to improve the economic status through education. Women who want to improve their status face a greater challenge than men just because of their gender.

This all came from Governor Pat who was reporting on the Governors Roundtable from the Biennium in Hawaii. To help women and girls improve their socio-economic status and take control of their lives and live their dreams, SIA has decided that education is the key. Increased Collective Impact is the combined effort from the club level to the SIA level to improve the lives of women and girls locally and globally, to use measurable evidence to indicate the level of improvement of increase of the socio-economic status of the Woman's Opportunity Awards recipients. In other words, Increased Collective Impact is a way to improve lives through WOA and to measure the difference by following up with the winners.

The biggest impact we can provide is access to education, through WOA, and any other projects that help women & girls to further theirs.

Barbara Giambastini also spoke about education. She spoke about "Educate to Lead". It is a focus not a project. It is to "Educate, Empower, & Enable". To **educate**, give women the skills necessary to take on any challenge; to **empower** them with confidence and choice to achieve anything; to **enable** women with opportunities to use skills and confidence as leaders and role models. This replaces the quadrennial project. SIA is asking for 4 Focus reports.

Shirley Jorgenson spoke on fundraising. It is to make dreams possible, to allow women to dare to dream. SIA is asking that each club donate 10% to SIA which in return gives back in WOA and grants. Out of each \$1.00 donated \$.81 go to programs, \$.19 go to expenses. \$.0 goes to administration. When added together with the other clubs our %10 will help women all over the world continue their education, break free from poverty, domestic violence, and exploitation, and find productive employment.

Membership and Public Awareness go hand in hand. Membership stresses recruitment – "each one bring one".

We need to be committed to the mission. We need to know the tagline, the mission, and the history of the club and the organization. We are ahead of the game with our website and use of Facebook. Public awareness is being recognized by any media resource for our efforts to improve the lives of women and girls. The collective use of our visual identity, the "S" pin, with the tagline "Best for Women", and our mission statement on all of our club materials, be it shirts, aprons, stationery, coffee cups, or anything else we can come up with will increase our public recognition. But the logo must not be distorted or it will be diluted. Create a media contact list, newspapers, radio, television, online, along with any contacts you make within those venues. Invite other service groups to your functions, also to serve as judges for any awards. Any time we are mentioned in the media, we should fill out the Public Awareness Award entry form.

2012-2013 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Vikki Piper

President Elect: Sue Graham

Recording Secretary: open

Correspondence Secretary:
Michele Shockley

Treasurer: Patti Frith-Smith

Treasurer Elect: Annette
Ramirez

One Year Director: Peggy Davis

Two Year Director: Elfie
SlaytonOne year Delegate: Sue
GrahamTwo Year Delegate: Kandi
PapikeAlternate Delegate: Dianne
AbneyBiennium Delegate: Cass
Adelsbach

Alternate Biennium Delegate:

UPCOMING DATESBusiness Meeting- Nov 1st
Noon @ Ol'KettleProgram Meeting- Nov 15th
Noon @ Ol'KettleBoard Meeting- Nov 28th 6:15pm
@ Community CollegeCommunity Tree Lighting &
Breakfast w/Santa – Dec. 1stChristmas Tree Auction- Dec 2ndBusiness Meeting- Dec 6th
Noon @ Ol'KettleChristmas Party- Dec 13thBoard Meeting- Dec 27th
Noon @ Ol'Kettle**BIRTHDAYS**Patti Frith-Smith - Nov. 15th

Suzanne Lowry – Nov. 28th

Penny Hume – Dec. 2nd**Member Spotlight!**

Michele (Jasper) Dodd joined our club in March of 2012. When asked to share her story with us, this is what she had to say:

My name is Michele Dodd (formerly Jaffey). I am 46 years old; I have lived in California since May of 2005. I moved here from East Rutherford, New Jersey, leaving an abusive relationship.

I have twin 8 year old children; Serafina Rose and Samuel. They were 8 months old when I decided that I did not want my daughter to grow up thinking it was okay to let a man treat her the way her father treated me, and I did not want my son to grow up thinking that it was okay to treat a woman the way his father treated me. I packed up my car with all I could fit inside, and headed west on Interstate 80 all the way to California. I cried part of the way, wanted to go back more than once, but held on to the hope of a better life for me and my children and kept driving west.

I got to Oakhurst in May and started school in June. I was going to be an RN so that I could provide for my children. I applied for and received my first scholarship, The Women's Opportunity Award. That let me know that I was not alone in my quest. When I received that scholarship, I vowed to come back and be a part of the organization that gave me that award. It took a while, but I did just that. I eventually changed majors to Criminology, and earned a BS in Criminology with a Victimology option in December of 2011. I am currently enrolled in a PsyD program in Clinical Forensic Psychology with the hopes of getting a job in one of the prisons as a psychologist.

In a past life, I was addicted to drugs and alcohol, and that journey took me to prison. I used for 15 years before I finally had enough of that life. I got clean on August 2, 1995, and have not used drugs or alcohol since that day. It is because of this part of my life that I have the desire to give back to where I came from. There was one person back then that believed in me enough to tell me I deserved more. I hope to be that one person in the life of someone else.

In September 2011, I met Julie Dodd. She was unlike anyone else I had ever dated and we seemed to hit it off from the very first time we met. She is everything I am not, and she seems to balance me out, and vice versa. We had a Handfasting (Celtic tradition) in January 2012, and enhanced our commitment to one another by getting a Registered Domestic Partnership, which was finalized on 10/11/12.

I would like to thank all of you for welcoming me and making me feel a part of something very important and close to my heart.



Fall Soup & Salad Luncheon

Our annual Fall Soup & Salad fundraiser was a success! Our guests enjoyed themselves, as always, and had a wonderful lunch. Preliminary numbers show that we served about 200 people.

The raffle this year was huge. We all did such a great job finding donations that we had about 150 items to raffle off. While this sounds like a good thing, it took a very long time to raffle off so many items and then to deliver them to the winners when the lunch was over. So, next time we will limit the number of items and consolidate donations when possible.

We have had one wrap-up meeting following the luncheon and here are some changes planned for next time :

- Fewer raffle items
- Have about 4 roving raffle ticket sellers in the dining room prior to the raffle, wearing distinct aprons.
- Place a paid ad in the Sierra Star
- No more delivered school lunches at this time.
- Adjust shopping list to avoid last-minute trips to the store.
- Increase ticket price at the door to \$12, but keep the pre-sale price at \$10.
- Place signs/ sandwich boards advertising the luncheon at the corners of Hwy 41 & Rd 426, and at Hwy 41 & Hwy 49 a couple of weeks prior to the event.
- More help in the dining room during the lunch. We will ask some high school students to help with clearing tables.
- Consider changing the availability of to-go containers, as many guests were using them to take food home. This may have caused us to run out of some items.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for an even better fundraiser in the Spring, please share with Sue Graham, chair of the Ways & Means Committee.

Educational Opportunity

Meeting Rules (thanks to our SI Mariposa friends for this educational opportunity idea!)

Parliamentary rules ensure accuracy in business, economy of time, order, uniformity and impartiality, and enhance the transaction of business.

In accordance with Federation Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, is the parliamentary authority.

Eight Steps to Action:

1. A member should rise and address the chair. ("President Vikki")
2. She should wait for recognition by the chair.
3. She makes the motion. ("I move that" not "I make a motion")
4. Another member seconds the motion.
5. The chair states the motion. ("It is moved by ____ and seconded by ____ that...")
6. If the motion is debatable, the chair asks for debate. ("Are you ready for the question?" or "Is there any discussion?")
7. The chair takes the vote. ("The question is on the adoption of the motion to...As many as are in favor of the motion say 'aye'...Those opposed say 'no.'") (If a two-thirds vote is required: "As many as are in favor of the motion, please stand...Be seated. Those opposed, please stand...Be seated.")
8. The chair announces the result. ("The motion is adopted." or "The motion is defeated.")

To make our meetings more productive & to ensure that everyone is heard, please avoid side conversations and cell phone use. This behavior could lead to a fine! :

We Gave

\$300 to Fresno Flats Historical

Park was the President's Gift

from our outgoing President

Elfie Slayton.

Don't forget to look for us on [facebook](#) at Soroptimist International of The Sierras, where you can share photos or comment on our ongoing activities.

Our club [website](#) is www.SoroptimistofTheSierras.org. Here you can find a calendar of events, past newsletters, flyers for upcoming events, and member information available only to members.

For future [newsletter](#) content, PLEASE contact Michele Shockley at Michele@SoroptimistofTheSierras.org.

Committee Reports

Membership- We had a Membership table at our luncheon, and three ladies indicated that they were interested in joining the club. Please make every effort to attend our meetings and welcome these women.

Publicity- The Publicity Committee has been focusing on helping to spread the word about the Violet Richardson & Women's Opportunity Awards.

Education- The deadlines are coming up for both the Violet Richardson and Women's Opportunity Awards, so the Education Committee will soon be very busy. For the Violet Richardson Award, \$500 will be granted to the charity or choice for an outstanding young girl in our community. For the Women's Opportunity Award, we have decided to offer a \$1000 grant to TWO deserving women in our community. These are women who are working to advance their education so that they can better provide for their families.

Community- The holidays are the busiest time of the year for the Community Benefits Committee. Coming up:

- Christmas tree decorating at the Community Living Center
- Assisting Kiwanis Club at "Breakfast with Santa"
- Christmas Tree Auction to benefit both Soroptimist and the Boys & Girl's Club
- Making & sending military packages to men & women who are serving both stateside and overseas.

Ways & Means- Wrapping up our big Fall fundraiser and coming up with more fundraising ideas for the year.

Social- Preparing for our Christmas party!

Soroptimist International of The Sierras meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 12:00 noon at the Ol'Kettle Restaurant. Guests are more than welcome!

YUMMY!

As promised, the Pumpkin Bread recipe from Soup & Salad morning:

Pumpkin Bread

- 1 ¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 ½ cup flour

Mix sugar, pumpkin & eggs. Add in baking powder, baking soda & cinnamon. Stir in vegetable oil and flour. Pour into greased bread pan & bake at 350 for about 50 minutes.

Penuche Glaze

- 1 ½ T. butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 T. milk or cream
- ¾ cup powdered sugar

Melt butter & brown sugar over medium heat. Let it boil for one minute, whisk in cream, then powdered sugar. Drizzle on bread.