



Soroptimist International of The Sierras

September / October 2012

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

A message from our president

By Vikki Piper



Please join me in welcoming the fall season. Living in the foothills we are fortunate enough to experience the magnificence of fall; the brightly colored leaves, the fresh air, and the crisp evenings. For our Club, autumn means we begin work on one of our two major fundraisers; the Fall Soup and Salad luncheon.

Sue Graham is doing an excellent job organizing the Soup and Salad luncheon. That said, she needs the help of all club members to make our fundraising efforts a success. She has some great things planned for our Soup and Salad luncheon. I am confident it will be as successful as ever.

For those of you who think the Soup and Salad luncheon is a whole lot of work, allow me to remind you as to why we do this. Our two fundraisers allow us to do important community work. Through our fundraising efforts we provide scholarships and grants to local students, support Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) projects, and fund our club project Community, Commitment, and Caring.

SIA has many projects which support issues effecting women and children. Their current projects are STOP Trafficking to raise awareness about trafficking and sexual slavery, the Campaign to End Domestic Violence, and the Teen Dating Violence Project which raises awareness about dating violence and promotes

healthy teen relationships. Our Soroptimist dues go towards supporting these efforts on a national level.

On the local level, we give Women's Opportunity Award scholarships to women who are head of household, the Violet Richardson award to young women (14-17) engaged in volunteer activities within the community, and we support our club project. We also support other local service organizations with our food, money, and labor, assisting them in raising funds for our local community.

So, please start selling your tickets and volunteering your time to the Soup and Salad luncheon. It is through your efforts that we make our community better.

Leadership Academy in Modesto

On August 4th, Vikki, Sue, Michele S. & Patti attended the District III Leadership Academy in Modesto.

While the most fun by far was had in the car there and back (which caused us to miss our exit!), we did leave there with some good information to share with the club, and we were recognized with two club awards: Certificate of Participation in the 2012 Women's Opportunity Awards, and Club Giving at the Dreamers level.

When speaking to us about fundraising, the keynote speaker, Cathy Standiford (former SIA President), repeatedly said "it is not about the Money" it is about the



cause. For most donors, the organization and the relationships that they have with members of the organization are the most important. Remembering this should make us all feel more comfortable with asking donors for donations.

Another speaker was Lisa Bennett, President of SI Carmel. She also spoke about fundraising and wanted us to consider a few things when planning our fundraising events:

- Do they reflect who we are? (personality, style, strengths, identity and history)
- How labor intensive?
- Net income- minimum 50% profit
- Good publicity for club?
- Are there opportunities to build membership & showcase a special project and our mission?

Educational Opportunity: Founder's Pennies

Founders Pennies represent approximately 10 percent of the \$1.5 million needed for the Women's Opportunity Awards program.

In 1943, the expected donation was one cent per member multiplied by the number of years that SIA had been in existence. Today, it's six cents per member multiplied by many more years! For 2012, that would be \$5.46 per member. Our club does participate in this program, and it's figured into our monthly dues.

This donation is not mandatory for clubs, but regions are awarded a certificate of appreciation when all clubs in the region contribute to Founders Pennies.. Additional recognition is given to the region that has the highest per capita contributions.

We gave...

\$156 from Coins for Cause to

Helping Hands.

\$350+ from International Goodwill

& Understanding Committee to the Birthing in the Pacific program in New Guinea.

\$500 in gas cards to Madera

County Victim's Services.

2012-2013 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Vikki Piper

President-Elect: Sue Graham

Treasurer: Patti Frith-Smith

Treas. Elect: Annette Ramirez

Recording Secretary:
Mary YarbroughCorrespondence Secretary:
Michele Shockley

One Year Director: Peggy Davis

Two year Director: Elfie Slayton

UPCOMING DATESBusiness Meeting- Sept 6th
Noon @ Ol'KettleHeritage Days Parade
(Soroptimist Float) – Sept 15Program Meeting – Sept 20th
Noon @ Ol'KettleBoard Meeting-Sept 26th
6:15pm @ Community CollegeBusiness Meeting – Oct 4th
Noon @ Ol'KettleSoup & Salad Lunch – Oct 11th
11:00-1:30District III Meeting- Oct 13th
8:00am-3:00pm in LemooreProgram Meeting- Oct 18th
Noon @ Ol'KettleBoard Meeting – Oct 24th
6:15pm @ Community College**BIRTHDAYS**Sept 3rd Dianne AbneySept 15th Michele ShockleySept 16th Tara RyanOct 1st Mary YarbroughOct 3rd Sandy BrinleyOct 9th Vikki PiperOct 22nd Cass AdelsbachOct 29th Rhonda Dewey

Fall Soup & Salad Fundraiser

-Sue Graham, Chair of Ways & Means

Soup and Salad will be coming SOON...October 11th...sell those tickets!

The Ways & Means Committee has already met several times to discuss this event, and to plan the menu, decorations, and other details. Some new things we are trying this year-

- Play some pleasant background music.
- Have an "early bird" raffle at about 12:15, with a separate, clearly marked table.
- The big raffle will start promptly at 1:00 to enable more people to be present for the "win" and to generate more excitement.
- We will set up a Soroptimist information table with membership information and pamphlets for both the Women's Opportunity and Violet Richardson Awards.
- Some of the members will be attending the meetings of other service clubs in Oakhurst to sell tickets (Rotary, Elks, Kiwanis, etc.)
- The menu is still under construction, but will include many of the community's favorites!

We will need lots of help collecting raffle prizes...get them anytime and drop off at Sue's Giftworks store.

We are also looking for other fundraising opportunities for this year. What's been talked about so far- Selling See's Candy or candles, Drive-Thru Dinners, Coupon Books, "donate" button on website/Facebook page. Another idea...many clubs turn their Ruby Award (Women Helping Women) presentation into a fundraising event. All ideas are welcome!



*It is not the
mountains that wear
you out,
It is the grain of sand
in your shoe"*

Lemon Cream Pie Recipe

(Submitted by Sue Graham - enjoyed at the Joint Board Meeting)

- 1/2 {12 oz.} frozen lemonade, thawed
- 1 {14oz} can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 {8oz} container nondairy whipped topping, thawed
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 9 inch piecrust baked or graham cracker crust
- 3 Tbsp. toasted slivered almonds

Combine and beat for 1 minute with electric mixer set on medium, spoon into crust, refrigerate for 2 hours, Sprinkle with almonds and devour!

Committee Updates

Education Committee (Sandy Brinley, chair): The Education Committee has a very busy year. This is the list of some of the events we handle- Women's Opportunity Award, Academic Decathlon, Spelling Bee, Violet Richardson Award, YHS Scholarships, and 8th Grade Awards for Citizenship & Academic Improvement.

This keeps the committee quite busy, but it takes a lot of participation from everyone. Judges are needed for the Scholarships- we had close to 70 last year. Application forms need to be ordered from the Region for the Women's Opportunity Award and Violet Richardson award. A check was issued for the Spelling Bee.

Meetings will be scheduled throughout the year as programs become due. Everyone involved can feel proud of being a Soroptimist and making a difference in our community.

Publicity Committee (Michele Shockley, chair): We are trying to increase community awareness of our fundraisers and projects via the Facebook page and the website (www.SoroptimistOfTheSierras.org), and improve club communication with our newsletter.

Please use the website to check our calendar, and member contact & committee information.

If you are a Facebook user, please comment on posts and share our Facebook page with your friends. It is a great way to communicate our upcoming events. Let's get over 100 "friends" by the end of September!

Committee Chairs: Please submit your committee updates by October 15th to be included in the November/ December newsletter.