

Soroptimist International of The Sierras

September/
October
2013

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, IN LOCAL
COMMUNITIES AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

A Message from our President



By Sue Graham



Happy Fall to Y'all...we can only hope cooler weather is on the way. The coming two months will be busy with several of us attending the district conference, and our ever-popular soup/salad luncheon in October. Sell those tickets, get those donations, and please mark Thursday October 17th and be prepared to help out as many hours as you are able...we need everyone's help to make it a successful and fun event.

Membership, membership, membership...we have several ladies who have expressed an interest in joining. In order to grow and share our message, we need to increase our membership. Please think about who you can invite and just bring 'em in.

I have lots of the forms etc. at the Giftworks on the "Soroptimist shelves". Little by little we are getting things organized and in one place, accessible to the entire membership.

Thank you everyone for all you do for our club and for me. Welcome to our new member, Donna Dozier, and all her fresh ideas. Working together, as women, we CAN make a difference...

We gave...

\$1100 to the Children's

Museum of The Sierras for
their Summer Art Program

\$500 for the mountain area

Back Pack Drive, benefiting
local elementary schools.

Soroptimist At Work in Our Community

Our club donated to two wonderful community projects this summer.

We matched the Rotary donation of \$1100 to sponsor the Children's Museum of the Sierra's Summer Art Program for local children. This has been one of the most attend and popular programs at the museum.

And, after Ashley Gomez spoke at our August Business Meeting, we decided to support her annual back pack drive by giving her \$500 to purchase back packs and school supplies. After school started she delivered go back packs, loaded with school supplies to all of our local Elementary School, to be given to children that need them.



Getting Ready For The Fall Soup & Salad Luncheon

Planning is well under way for our annual Fall Soup & Salad Luncheon. This is one of our two major fundraisers, and it relies a great deal on membership participation for success.

We are having Ways & Means Committee meetings every two weeks to work out all of the details, and the next lunch meeting will be on September 12th @ 12:30.

We are excited about the delicious menu that we have planned, as well as the beautiful fall decorations. Now, our main focus needs to be on getting some great donations!

Please sign up to visit a few of our local businesses. Bring them a flyer, ask if they would like to purchase lunch tickets, and ask for a donation. Most are happy to contribute!

SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Fall Soup & Salad Luncheon

Thursday, October 17, 2013
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Oakhurst Community Center

Enjoy a relaxing lunch with friends

Delicious homemade soups
Traditional Salad Bar with toppings
Rolls
Beverage
Dessert

Great raffle & door prizes

Tickets available at Oakhurst Giftworks & Soroptimist Members

Advance ticket prices: \$10.00 or \$12 at the door

Thank you to our corporate sponsors:
Yosemite Brokerage
Mark Wolk Pump Service
Sierra Telephone

www.SoroptimistofTheSierras.com

— Our Mission Statement —
To improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sue Graham
 President Elect: Michele Shockley
 Treasurer: Patti Frith-Smith
 Treasurer Elect: Shelle Abbott
 Recording Secretary: Nikki VanVelson
 Correspondence Secretary: Rhonda Dewey
 One Year Director: Elfie Slayton
 Two year Director: Sandy Brinley

UPCOMING DATES

Board Meeting – Sept 3rd
 Business Meeting- Sept 5th
 Ways & Means Mtg – Sept 12th
 Program Meeting – Sept 19th
 Ways & Means Mtg – Sept 26th
 District Meeting – Sept 28th
 Board Meeting – Sept 30th
 Business Meeting – Oct 3rd
 Ways & Means Mtg – Oct 10th
 Soup & Salad Lunch - Oct 17th

BIRTHDAYS

Sept 3rd – Dianne Abney
 Sept 15th – Michele Shockley
 Sept 16th – Tara Ryan
 Oct 1st - Mary Yarbrough
 Oct 3rd – Sandy Brinley
 Oct 9th – Vikki Piper
 Oct 22nd – Cass Adelsbach
 Oct 29th – Rhonda Dewey

SEPTEMBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

1976 – Suzanne Lowry
 2006 – Vikki Piper
 2010 – Annette Ramirez

Committees, Committees, Committees...

All of our committees are gearing up for a great year, with several new committee chairs who are busy making the transition. If you haven't already signed up for 2-3 committees to work on, please do so soon.

Ways & Means - Michele Shockley, chair

Human Rights & Status of Women- Rhonda Dewey, chair

Publicity – Nikki VanVelson, chair

Finance – Patti Frith-Smith, chair

Education – Dianne Abney, chair

International Goodwill & Understanding – Sandy Brinley, chair

Social – Sue Graham & Lori Brand, chair

Community Services – Dannie Forbes & Elfie Slayton, co-chairs

Membership – Tara Ryan, chair

Laws & Resolutions – Snezhana McGoldrick, chair

To see what we're up to, visit:

www.SoroptimistOfTheSierras.org

A resource for event flyers, newsletters, and information about our club and organization.

Facebook- (SI of The Sierras)

A social site for sharing of photos and current club activities.



Contact us at

SISierras@Soroptimist.net

Interested in becoming a member??

Be our guest at a club meeting, and see what it's all about. We are a great group of women, having fun working together while helping women & girls in our community.

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of most months @ Noon at Crab Cakes Restaurant

Notes from the Sierra Pacific Region Leadership Academy

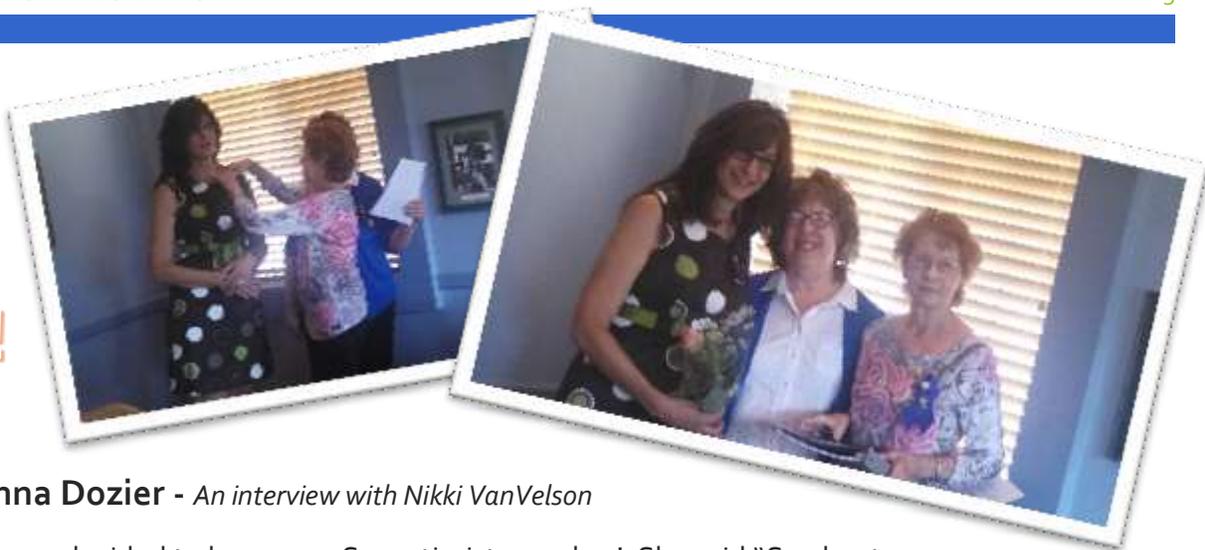
Early in the morning on Saturday, July 13, 2013, a group of us traveled to Modesto for this regional meeting. In attendance were Rhonda Dewey, Michele Shockley, Sue Graham, Patti Frith-Smith & Nikki VanVelson.



By Nikki Van Velson

1. There are 43 clubs in our Sierra Pacific Region
2. 125 people attended the meeting on Saturday.
3. The region gave out 68 Women's Opportunity Awards totaling \$73,000.
4. We are to contact our Regional Director if we are having trouble finding women for the WOPA every year. Some clubs have 10 women nominated. Applications for this award must be submitted before Feb. 1st.
5. There is a "Best For Women" magazine that is published 3x/year.
6. If the club does not have a quorum then the minutes from the previous meeting cannot be read.
7. When you send minutes via email you don't need to read them at the meeting, however, if someone doesn't have a computer, send them the minutes at least a week before the business meeting so they may read.
8. We received a certificate for "Club Giving" which means that 10% of the funds we raise is donated to S.I.
9. Sept. 28, 2013 is the District Meeting in Clovis
10. May 16-18, 2014 is the Regional Conference in Visalia
11. The 2014 convention to be held in Vancouver BC. Consider sending at least on delegate to this event.
12. If an invocation is given, it should be done before the pledge. Most clubs do an inspiration.
13. The next world conference is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey.
14. A lot of information and dates are on the Soroptimist.org website.

New Member Induction!



Getting to know Donna Dozier - *An interview with Nikki VanVelson*

We are delighted that Donna decided to become a Soroptimist member! She said "Sue kept asking me to join and I finally decided it was time!"

Donna is a Valley girl, born in L.A. and raised in Woodland Hills in the San Fernando Valley. I asked how she came to live in Oakhurst. She met her husband Dennis at Mule Days in Bishop. Dennis worked in Yosemite, and Donna lived in Sebastopol. After dating for 2 years, then married for 2 years, Donna and Dennis decided it would be nice to live together, so Dennis moved to Sebastopol and commuted to The Presidio in San Francisco for 8 years. They finally decided it was time to move to wherever there was a National Park, and they arrived in Oakhurst in 2005. They have a daughter, Bailey, who is 26 years old, and works and lives in Newport Beach. When I asked how she likes Oakhurst, Donna said she wished that it was a town with a town square to hold events with bands, music and entertainment.

Dennis works in Wawona in construction and when they moved here, Donna worked at Revive Hair Salon. She had obtained her cosmetology license when she was 18 and bought her own salon a year later and owned until they moved here. She's an entrepreneur at heart.

This is Donna's 3rd year working at the kiosk at the entrance to the Park. "I really enjoy talking to visitors coming into the Park but don't like handling the money," she said. Her dream job would be working as a concierge at a large hotel.

While helping to re-roof their home, Donna fell off the ladder, broke her neck and had to wear a halo for four months! Because of this injury, Donna was a recipient of a Helping One Woman (H.O.W.) dinner in Fresno in 2008. Last year her friend Patti Fuentes asked her to co-find the Oakhurst chapter and H.O.W. Oakhurst was started.

Volunteering has been a part of Donna's life for a long time. She has volunteered for the "Look Good Feel Better" program associated with the American Cancer Society since 1990. It is free for women cancer patients and teaches them how to put on makeup during their Chemo journey with hair loss and skin changes. For two hours the women can get away from their illness. When Donna lived in Sonoma she started the "Welcome back Program" she has shaved 300 women free of charge when their hair starting falling out from chemo treatments. Donna has been a Rotarian and participated in Women In Business, in Oakhurst and Sebastopol.

On a personal side, she loves reading, horseback riding and when they have time, she and Dennis drive to Tuolumne for hikes and Horse packing. The east side of the Sierras is a favorite of hers, especially the town of Bishop. For fun, Donna recently went Zip Lining at Zip Yosemite. She wants us to get a group together to do this and she will work out the details!

Donna is fun, friendly, and enthusiastic about Soroptimist. We're excited that she decided to take that first step and join! Welcome aboard, Donna!

Our Club's History

Interview with Ann Topham, a Charter Member - *by Nikki VanVelson*

Ann was born in Fort Smith, on New Year's Day, 1935. She has three sisters and three brothers and graduated high school in May, 1953. She married Fred Topham on Nov. 29, 1953 when she was a child bride of 18. Fred was a pharmacist at Fort Smith for a few years. After he was discharged from the Army, they moved to Fresno to be near family.

The Tophams have two sons, Bryan and Randy, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They moved to Oakhurst in May, 1959 and bought property to start the drugstore they named Tops Drugs. The drugstore was located by the old post office (Sierra Star today). During those years, high school students had to take the bus to Sierra High School every day. Ann said the boys left when it was dark outside (early morning) and came home after dark. Ann and Fred drove many, many miles taking the boys to sports events and school programs. When their lease was up in 1970 the Tophams purchased the property where Millers Mountain Sports is located and ran the business until they retired on April 1, 1983.

In 1959 Oakhurst and Bass Lake had a population of about 800 people. They had one doctor, the Midway grocery store, a Chevron Gas Station, and a restaurant that served hamburgers from May until October. Lumber mills were operating in Oakhurst, North Fork, and up Road 632 at Sky Ranch those days. The Forks Restaurant, the Pines, the old Duceys and The Falls Café were all open for business. The Falls Café had a bar and dancing downstairs and "romance flourished" Ann said.

When asked how Soroptimist of The Sierras first became chartered, Ann said the Madera Soroptimist chapter was instrumental in starting our club on 5/28/68. Members of their club drove up and a ceremony took place at The Broken Bit Restaurant with a large crowd in attendance. That's why there is a close association with the Madera Soroptimist today.

When Ann was elected president in 1974, Soroptimist held their conference in Hawaii. Needless to say Ann couldn't resist the opportunity and made the trip (she has since traveled the world). At the conference, SI of The Sierras (much to Ann's surprise) was the recipient of the Violet Richardson Award. Member Bea Abbott was instrumental in having the club donate ballet shoes to a group of girls and the directors chose our club to be recognized for that donation.

One of the local events Soroptimist participated in (and dressed like clowns) was Mountaineer Days which in those days had a huge crowd. Various bands traveled up to Oakhurst for the event and marched. Our club sold beer battered corn dogs and cotton candy to raise money. One of the more popular games that Soroptimist organized was pitching rings to win "live" geese. Ann said many of the geese were won and driven to new homes after the parade.

We are proud of Ann Topham and recognize her continuing support and membership in SI of The Sierras. She is an outstanding leader in the community, willing to lend a hand wherever she is needed. She holds the rich history and memories of SI of the Sierras and we treasure her as a member.

