



# SIGS News

Spring/Summer  
2025  
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## Past-President Carole



This SIGS club year has flown by with so many things to celebrate. I am grateful to all those who worked to make it a great year. Our It's in the Bag fundraiser was a huge success with praise from many attendees that it was the best yet...and most lucrative. Thank you to all.

Our SIGS Olive Oil sales broke records over the previous years, plus it made everyone healthier.

The Women's Empowerment Holiday Craft Party was received with joy by the graduates and their children. As SIGS' biggest service project there is pride in reaching so many women and children directly. WE has expressed their continuing gratitude for the support we provide to make it a success for so many years.

Live Your Dream was especially meaningful this year because we were able to award two deserving women with funds to continue their education, support their families and strive to reach their dreams. More of the members than ever participated in the selection of these awards.

As life goes on, we experience changes, some expected and others not. We have a couple of members taking a break, but we hope to have them back very soon. We are sad to be losing one of our talented and innovative members, Michelle Whisenand. We were fortunate to have had her as a member for 10 years, and we wish her the best in the years ahead.

I am grateful to the members who have volunteered to take on leadership roles for the next year. I know the club will thrive with their TLC. It has been my pleasure to have served as President and represented the Club at the District and Region level. *Affectionately, Carole*



## Looking Ahead to a Great Service Year of "Making a Difference"

### Co Presidents, Lori Hill and Sally Johnson

As another meaningful year together wraps up, we wish each of you a relaxing and joyful summer. Take time to recharge, enjoy yourselves with friends and family -- and think about the impact we have made for women and children this past year.

We are already looking ahead to the beginning of our new service year together. Let's start thinking of fresh ideas for serving women and children in our community. The committee chairs will be contacting you to gather during the summer to plan for the 25-26 year. Bring any new ideas (or old) to your committee get togethers. Your involvement will "Make a Difference!"

If you have not had the opportunity to sign up for a committee, this is the time to do so. The committees are Program (Chair Carol Little), Service (Chair Carole Davenport) and Ways and Means (Chair Paula Maw).

August 26 will be our Summer Mixer. If you have a guest(s) you would like to bring, bring them and we can begin rebuilding membership!

Sally attended the SNR Conference in Reno, and Lori a Leadership meeting on Zoom. We will come back energized! This coming year we will have new opportunities to make an impact, support one another and bring positive change to our communities. We look forward to another season of purpose, friendship and service.



## Our Officers & Committees for 25-26



Thank you to **Sally Johnson** and **Lori Hill** for taking on the co-presidents roles next year, to **Alice Carney** as Secretary and **Susan Gower** and **Lydia Zeidner** as co-Treasurers.

If you haven't already signed up for one of our three committees (which have lots of specific tasks suitable for one or two people), please do so by contacting the committee chair and the presidents. Committees will be meeting during the summer to plan for the coming year. And if you have potential members in mind, getting them involved in committee work early is a great way to start. *Committee descriptions are on page 6.*

### Programs

**Carol Little, Chair.** Carole Davenport, Janelle O'Donnell, Hilda Tonarely, Nancy Carlton, Paula Maw (Activities and Events), Cindra Smith (newsletter). Paula and Cindra (roster).

### Service

**Carole Davenport, Chair.** Susan Gower, Alice Carney, Cindra Smith, Janelle O'Donnell, Nancy Carlton

### Ways and Means

**Paula Maw, Chair.** Carole Davenport, Cindra Smith (Fine Master), Diane Kushner (Fundraising Ideas)

## SIGS Business

### April Retreat

In addition to a great time socializing and dining, we:

- Approve revisions to the Bylaws (updated version emailed to all members in May)
- Elected officers for 25-26
- Approved an increase to dues to \$185
- Discussed our theme for next year, *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*, and possible activities.
- Signed up for 25-26 committees.



### June 3 Business Meeting

Discussion Included:

- #1 priority, growing our membership.
- 25-26 Calendar of meetings. August 26, summer mixer, Sept 16, first meeting (business). Most meetings will be in person.
- Program ideas for speakers and special event for Live Your Dream awards.
- Possible grants for next year to be decided at first meeting.
- Possible new service project for spring.

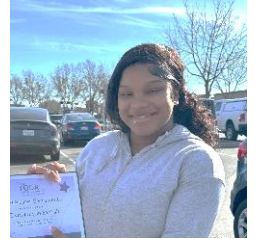
In addition, the Board approved Lora Edward's request for a leave of absence due to health and financial reasons. While she will not be on our membership roster, she wishes to still receive club emails to keep up with what's happening. The club will cover her reinstatement fee when she is able to return to active membership.



*At the February 4 meeting, members gathered to select two outstanding women to receive SIGS Live Your Dream Award.*

**Tyra** grew up in the Foster Care system under difficult conditions, constantly moving between placements. Despite these challenges, Tyra was always an excellent student, a natural leader and determined to succeed. She graduated early from high school and is now a college student and a single mom with three young children. She is pursuing a B. A. degree in Social Work so she can make a difference in the lives of foster kids. She will continue on for a master's degree.

Tyra has endured traumas as a young woman but has maintained her open and loving outlook toward those around her. Tyra is determined to be the best mom possible and an example for her children of resilience and positivity.



Stephanie is a survivor in the truest sense. She is the mother of a three-year-old son who was eight months old when she was able to escape an abusive relationship. She and her son spent time in and out of homeless shelters and transitional housing but she was determined to create a stable situation. She understands that education is the path to her dreams, and is resolute in her quest for a Bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences. Stephanie has a passion for making a difference in environmental sustainability, addressing environmental challenges and finding practical solutions for a healthier planet. She has an AA in Natural Resources and is continuing her education at Sacramento State. Focus and determination guide her as she achieves her goal in her career and as a role model for her son. The earth will be a better place because of Stephanie's contributions.

## SIGS Olive Oil

### Paula Maw

Good job Paula and her sales people! She reports that we sold 140 bottles plus one gallon size (Susan reports we made \$2,796!). Twenty-six bottles were sold last October at Bliss Marketplace Faire, 15 bottles at the It's In The Bag event, the rest to members and friends. She still has lots of EVOO in these flavors: Plain, Garlic, Lemon, Jalapeño and Basil. Call me whenever you are in need and enjoy your summer with lots of fresh tomato Caprese Salad, or Pasta Pesto and Peas! Yummy!



And, with all the basil available at farmers' markets or in your garden, here's a good and easy recipe via Ina Garten for our olive oil.

### Homemade Pesto

1/4 Cup Walnuts, 1/4 Cup Pine Nuts, 9 cloves Garlic (chopped), 5 Cups fresh Basil Leaves (packed), 1 tsp. Kosher Salt, 1 tsp. fresh Ground Pepper, 1 1/2 cups good EVOO and 1 Cup freshly grated Parmesan. Place the walnuts, pine nuts and garlic in bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Process for 30 seconds. Add the basil leaves, salt and pepper. With the processor running, slowly pour the olive oil into the bowl through the feed tube and process until the pesto is finely pureed. Add the Parmesan and puree for a minute. Serve, or store the pesto in the refrigerator or freezer with a thin film of olive oil on top.



Keep Up With SIGS

Visit our Website, [www.sacramentosoroptimists.org](http://www.sacramentosoroptimists.org) (thank you Carole D), and our Facebook page (go to Facebook and search for Soroptimist International of Greater Sacramento) (thank you Carol L)

## It's in the Bag: Wow!



It's In the Bag 168 paying guests had a wonderful time bidding on over 100 bags and other items. A great turnout for our fundraising, which raised around \$10,000 for our service fund!. Thanks to everyone who donated bags, items for the door prize baskets, and particularly the grand prize Cartier "wallet" with over \$500 of cash and gift cards. .



## And more fun fundraising



Our Endowment Fund earned around \$4,200 in interest this past year, available for grants and service. Thanks also go to Superstars Cindra Smith and Carol Little for their contributions, and to Lydia Zeidner for coordinating the Lynch Creek Fundraiser, which brought in \$320.



## DUES are Due

Yes, we raised our annual dues to \$185; the first increase in over 10 years. But our costs have increased as well the dues we pass on to the Region and SIA to support their work. And an additional expense this coming year is the \$800 contribution to the SIA international conference, which gives us the right to one registration. So, it was time. We hope it will be another 10+ years before another increase is needed.

## SIGS Book Club Reads



The SIGS book club meets monthly at Ettore's, and has had a year of good reads, including *James, Life After Life*, *West with Giraffes*, *The Women*, *The Collected Regrets of Clover*, *Grit and Grace*, *Time of the Child* and more. If you would like to be on the email invite list to attend, please contact Lydia! It's a fun time, even if you haven't read the book.

## Sierra Nevada Region Conference

By Sally Johnson

Our club is part of the SNR region, which covers much of Northern California and Nevada. I attended a day of the 48th Annual SNR Conference at the Atlantis Hotel/Casino, Reno. (For a conference, this can be an enjoyable location...especially if you are a gambler - which I am not - although I used to have fun sneaking a coin in on the craps table when I was near one!! Also it is also entertaining if you are a people watcher!!)

I would REALLY encourage you to attend this conference next June as it is filled with valuable information about Soroptimist but also filled with fun, interesting women who want to meet and greet, and improve their knowledge about what is Soroptimist and how can they be more effective member.

The theme of this year's conference was "Making Dreams Soar," and ran from Friday to Sunday. There were approximately 200 women attending. There also is a "Marketplace" in the foyer set up for clubs to vend their products as a fundraiser. Products such as jewelry, glassware, hats, quilts, beauty products, etc. But, no Olive Oil.... we might have done well with ours!!

I was not able to attend on Friday, but there were breakout sessions designed to inspire clubs to take meaningful action in their human trafficking outreach efforts by "equipping you with tools, inspiration and network of support to turn awareness into action," as well as a session on "Creating an Effective Club Website." In the evening, SNR's Governor Stacey Jensen and other leaders were introduced, and there was a Pajama Party "Movie Night."

I attended the all day conference Saturday...from 8 AM to 9 PM with breaks in between sessions. We were in a large conference room with tables of 8. The day went quickly, filled with speakers of all things Soroptimist. Topics of the day:

- A discussion/information about the importance of having a club ABC license.
- Combating the Great Membership Decline, speaker Holly Nash - "Klub Kindness Kounts"...Keep Klubs Kind. Some of the audience suggestions on building membership: Be positive; Track your expenditures and show how we are involved with helping women and children; go to bars - be sociable, get friendly people who are always talking; don't be resistant to change - young people are open. One club gets members after a Wine Tasting! Set a goal of how many new members you want by the end of the year. Partner with local businesses. And, the Truckee club banned the word "retired!"
- Awards: Blanche Edgar Award, SOLT Award, Stop Trafficking award,
- Voted to amend the bylaws to combine the Soroptimist Development Retreat (SDR) with the Annual Conference. Amendment passed. This will reduce costs (facility and travel) and increase attendance.

Our dinner speaker was Jenna McKaye, Author of *Grit and Grace - A Journey of Resilience*, her story as a survivor of Human Trafficking. Jenna founded the Jenna McKaye Foundation to aid trafficked victims. (*Grit and Grace* was the June read for SIGS Book Club).

Sunday's programs included the Celebration of Life, and Live Your Dream awards.

**A final note: it would have been lots of fun to have several of us together at the conference, so let's plan on more of us going! You won't regret it!**

## SIGS Committees

(from the Bylaws approved April 2025).

**Service:** make recommendations and coordinate members' involvement in service projects, including receiving and summarizing applications for service awards and grants (e.g. Live Your Dream and Dream Grants). Service may take the form of hands-on activities and/or recommendations for funding.

**Ways and Means:** make recommendations and coordinate members' involvement in one or more fundraising activities and to coordinate Superstars and fine programs.

**Program:** secure and publicize luncheon speakers; plan mixers and retreats, coordinate luncheon reservations; receive membership applications and orient new members, maintain the roster; and provide for club communications (e.g. newsletter, social media, public relations.)

The Club as a whole shall approve committee recommendations, including service projects, fundraisers and financial awards. The President may appoint a committee for technical functions of the club, such as Bylaws and Policy, and Finance.

## Soroptimist Links

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### Sierra Nevada Region

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

For member specific forms, use the password 1921

### SI of the Americas

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

ID: your member number

Password: Create your own



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

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Have Fun and Get It Done

### Our Mission

**Providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.**