



SIGS News

Volume 22, Issue 2
October 2018

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SIGS Meets

First & Third Tuesdays
Lunch Meetings
12:00 noon – 1:15 pm
(Sign-in begins at 11:30)
Jackson Catering
1120 Fulton
Evening Meetings
As Announced



Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

SIGS In October & November October 16 Lunch Meeting

Chelsea Fahr, Director of Donor Engagement, Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Please join us as our own Endowment Chair, Carol Little, reviews the establishment of the fund, its history and growth. Chelsea will highlight what SRCF does and share ideas on donor engagement. This presentation will help us understand the Endowment Fund and its importance.



October is Domestic Violence Month



This month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a recognition that started more than 30 years ago to shine light on the far too widespread problem of both the visible and invisible violence women, men, and children experience. Nearly 1 in 4 women (and 1 in 7 men) experience severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. About 1 in 6 women experience sexual violence from an intimate partner. For many, violence begins as early as high school or younger, and can continue throughout life. If someone you know needs help, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or visit them online at www.thehotline.org.

November 1 Live Your Dream Applications Due

See page 3 for more.

November 6 Lunch Meeting



Amber Stott, CEO & Chief Food Genius of Food Literacy Center will be joining us. She founded the organization to inspire kids to eat their vegetables. We teach low-income elementary children cooking and nutrition to improve our health, environment, and economy. She was name 40 Under 40 by Sacramento Business Journal, Food Revolution Hero by Jamie Oliver Food Foundation, one of Food Tank's 20 Innovators Protecting the Planet and one of their 17 Food Heroes to Inspire Us in 2017, Social Entrepreneur of the Year by New Leader's Council Sacramento, Outstanding Woman Leader by the National Association of Women Business Owners, and a TEDx Sacramento Fellow. <https://www.foodliteracycenter.org>

No Second Meeting in November This Year

2018 - 2019**Board of Directors**

President Michelle Whisenand

President-Elect Roni Bowling

VP Service
Stephanie PaiaVP Program
Lori Hill/Lydia ZeidnerVP Membership
Paula MawVP Ways and Means
Sheryl SoremVP Communications
Faye Holliman

Secretary Susan Gower

Treasurer Jean Foster

Director Cherie Fields

Director Lora Edwards

Director and Endowment Chair
Carol Little**Board Meetings**

Board meetings are usually the second Tuesday of the month at Michelle Whisenand's office conference room. All are welcome.

President's Message

By President Michelle Whisenand

I could not be happier! I am so proud to be a part of a club that pulls together as we did on September 29. There were two conflicting events scheduled: the **Annual District Meeting and My Sister's House High Tea.**

Obviously, we needed to be represented at the District Meeting. At stake was whether or not we would be able to support My Sister's House. **Dara, Faye, Laurie, and Millie**, along with their guests, filled our table. **Roni** again created our table decoration and then turned around and attended the District Meeting. Not only that, but SIGS took second place! Congrats Roni! (photos on next page)



Carole, Paula, Marilyn, Roni and I attended the District Meeting.

It was a very informative, productive and positive event. Of note was Marilyn's hard work, which brought in a whopping \$589.00 in sales. SIGS also won first place in the number of shoes donated. Not bad at all. (photos on page 5).

But WAIT, There's More....

October 2 Business Meeting

Tuesday was our first business meeting of the year. The theme of the business meeting was "Looking Forward to a New Year" and that is exactly what we did. We took all of the ideas and suggestions gathered from our Retreat last year, went through them, and prioritized them for upcoming business meetings. Before future business lunches the one or two topics we will be discussing will be announced.

First up was a report on Kay Rasmussen who fell and facing hip surgery at Kaiser Morse. We are all hoping for Kay's quick recovery.

Then, we introduced **SIGS Panty Program**. See page 4 for more on this important effort!

Jean went through her detailed handout on how things work on the financial end of our efforts (e.g., what different accounts we have and why). It was very informative and appreciated by many of us who have just not quite been able to get a handle on it. Highlights are on page 6.

I arrived at the luncheon very stressed and left feeling energized. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated. I promise not to go long next time!

September Board Highlights

At the September Meeting, the Board:

- Discussed and approved the 2018-2019 SIGS Budget (Thanks Jean and Committee!)
- Discussed participation in My Sister House High Tea and the District 3 Meeting,
- Heard reports from the committees, including the WE Holiday Craft Party

Want to Soiree?



VP of Membership Paula Maw reports that we have the good fortune of membership count at 33 members and holding. The membership committee (Carole D., Hilda T. and her) are thinking a membership soiree event would be a productive way to meet, greet and recruit prospective new members. We will also promote a 'bring-a-friend-(prospective member) -to-lunch-meeting day. Stay tuned for further information.



How Many Panties Can You Collect?

By President Michelle

The Panty Program is a contest for our members (with the help of our community) to buy new panties to help defray the costs for Hidden Support when buying bras and panties for our WE graduates. The costs are rising, and we are turning to you all to donate the panties so that we can continue to purchase the bras according to each woman's size. I will be emailing a flyer that you can use to solicit donations from your friends and colleagues.

Our goal is 100 pairs of panties by January 31, 2019. Based on what I have witnessed so far this year, I think we will not only meet that goal but exceed it. Panties not used for Hidden Support will be donated to other organizations in need (and, sadly, there are many of them).

Live Your Dream Applications Due November 1

Our **President-Elect Roni Bowling** is in charge of awards and is looking for applications for SIA's signature program, the LYD award. She emailed everyone a copy of the Live Your Dream publicity flyer – contact her if you didn't get it. She has contacted various organizations as well to get the word out. Then we or the organization will help potential applicants complete the application on line. The deadline for submitting an application for our \$1500 grant/scholarship is November 1, 2018.

Roni has researched the significant change to the application process, and sought clarification from the SIA Headquarters office. This change was in response to suggestions by applicants, as it streamlines the process and adds security. So...

Applicants **apply online ONLY**. They no longer submit a PDF or send it directly to local Soroptimist chapters.

Step 1: at Google search type bit.ly/LYDA-APPLY this is a direct link to the application.

Step 2: Applicant enters their Zip Code

- a search within 75 mile radius will appear of all local Soroptimist groups .
- Our Soroptimist name is: [Soroptimist International of Greater Sacramento](#).

Applicants must click on SIGS in order for us to receive their completed application for review. SIA Headquarters will not manually forward the application nor will they seek out groups that don't receive any applicants if others receive a abundance.

We need everyone's help in identifying a woman who is a head of household seeking to further her education or job training. The grant can be used for any expenses.

My Sister's House High Tea

SIGS was represented by Dara, Laurie, Mille, Faye, and friends (including past member Carol Lundsten, a friend of Dara's). Roni once again created an elegant centerpiece, and with the fun, glamorous pink eyeglasses, SIGS was recognized with a second-place award. Congratulations, Roni. The bottle of wine and \$50 gift certificate to Red Hawk casino may be a future auction item! Stay tuned.



The MSH Annual Fundraiser raises funds for their programs to support their programs that serve Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking by providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven, job training, and community services.



Superstars!

By Jean Foster

As per our club's tradition, there will be \$1 or \$2 fines at every meeting at the whim of our glorious fine master. In addition, if you have a personal or professional milestone, accomplishment or recognition, you will also be fined for being so wonderful. Want to avoid these pesky fines? For a mere \$50, you can become a SuperStar! For your tax-deductible donation, you will have the privilege of not having to pay fines at meetings AND you can brag to the club about anything you want! Do the math! Being a SuperStar pays off. To join in, simply present your check to Michelle or Jean at any meeting/function and start bragging!

Marilyn Goodfellow was our first SuperStar. She was joined by the following at the October 2 Meeting.

Laurel Bell Cahill –so she could tell the club about the importance of getting vaccinated against Shingles.

Carol Little – to brag about qualifying to golf in an industry tournament.

And some "Just Because's"

Millie Stone

Sally Johnson

Stephanie Paia

Lora Edwards

Thanks so much everyone!

*Keep Your Eyes on the Stars and
Your Feet on the Ground.*

Theodore Roosevelt



Healing Thoughts to

Kay Rasmussen, who broke her hip and had surgery at Kaiser on October 2.

Cindra Smith, who has a new left knee and is focused on doing the rehab for that. She loves her surgeon at Kaiser, who did a fabulous job.

Dress A Girl Around the World

Roni still has a few dresses requiring to be sewn for the Dress A Girl Project. Contact her by email if you are willing to complete these darling outfits. She will bring them to Nov 6th meeting or otherwise get them to you.



Bags, Bags, Bags!

It's not too early to start bag collection for our 5th Annual fundraiser event. The date for our event will be Thursday May 9, 2018; the Thursday before Mother's Day.



We anticipate using the same location, same caterer, and same wonderful cast of characters. Thank you to **Sheryl Sorem** who will be heading up another successful and fun event!

W.E. Holiday Craft Party—We Have a Location!!!

By Judy and Roni



Great news! The Board of **St. Francis High School** recently approved Womens Empowerment's application for the Holiday Craft Party to return to St. Francis. **December 8** is the confirmed date. We are so pleased to be able to go back to this location, so please mark your calendars. All of SIGS hands and spirits contribute to a great day for women and children.

No final word yet on WE's review of desired stocking items and possible changes to reflect feedback they have received---stay tuned for updates on stockings as well as set-up times for the party.

Crafter Recruitment: Roni has begun the critical task of working with WE in contacting and organizing volunteer crafters, and the responses are coming in. Now that we know the space, adding in some new crafts this year would be welcome--If you know any community members who would consider providing a craft station for 100-125 WE guests, please let Roni know their contact info.

In Case You Missed It...

Treasurer **Jean Foster** gave a presentation on SIGS financial structure and what is tax deductible at the first meeting in October. Following are excerpts from the handout she provided:

SIGS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. As such, it can receive charitable donations that are tax deductible for amounts that are greater than the value of any goods or services the donor receives in exchange. Our club has voluntarily opted to maintain the following funds:

General Fund – This account pays for the costs associated with operating our club, lunch meetings and social activities. Operating expenses include: Dues that we pay to Soroptimist International (SIA) and to our Sierra Nevada Region, Lunch costs, activity & events, insurance, storage, website, roster, postage, etc.

Primary sources of revenue for the General Fund are

- Member dues (tax deductible as a charitable donation)
- Lunch fees (NOT deductible as a charitable donation since donor receives a lunch with the same value as the fee—but maybe deductible as a business expense), and
- Activity & Event fees (may not be deductible if donor receives an equivalent value in food or entry fees)

Service Fund – This account consists of funds that our club specifically sets aside for service projects such as:

WE Holiday Craft Party, Grants, Hidden Support, Live Your Dream award, SNR and SIA disaster and international projects

Primary sources of revenue for the Service Fund consist of:

- Annual Service Commitment from members (fully deductible as a charitable donation)
- It's In The Bag fundraiser (technically NOT deductible since donor receives a chance to win something in exchange for buying a raffle ticket. Not deductible whether or not donor actually wins)
- Donations from the general public (deductible)



As part of the annual budgeting process, the Board normally allocates other revenue received such as meeting fines (deductible), Superstar fees (deductible), miscellaneous auction proceeds (the amount paid over the value of what received is deductible), etc to the General Fund to ensure that all operating costs are covered. At the end of each fiscal year, the Board has the option to transfer a portion of any net income from the General Fund over to the Service Fund.

The amount of funds to be used for Service Projects in any given fiscal year depends on the amount available in our Service Fund based upon the above process. The Service Fund is simply a method for our club to track monies available to spend on Service Projects. As a general rule, once funds are in the Service Fund, we don't ever transfer them back to the General Fund to pay for operations.

Please note that whether a donation is deductible or not has no bearing on which Fund the Board has chosen to allocate the donation to. Instead, the deductibility amount depends on what the donor receives in exchange.

Help Wanted!

Stephanie Paia is VP of Service, heads up our service committee, has chaired the Women's Empowerment Gala planning committee for two or three years, and also maintains the SIGS Website. While she is a rock star, she says the doing the website is not rocket science, as she uses templates and a software that is easy to learn. She would love some new energy for the website. If anyone is interested, please let her know. It's something that you can do in your own home that would contribute a lot to SIGS and to Soroptimists image online.

Thanks in advance!



Olive Oil Products: THINK HOLIDAY SHOPPING!



By Marilyn Goodfellow

Members: DO You need SIGS' OLIVE OILS, BODY LOTION, SOAPS or BALSAMIC VINEGARS?!

Let me know what you need. We are waiting for more of our wonderful Ternero olive oil, but I have:

- Flavored oils: Basil, Jalapeno or Oregano
- Soaps and body oil
- Cranberry, pear, and sriracha balsamic vinegars;

Costs: Soap \$8, Body Oil \$13.50 all other bottles are \$15. Thanks for your support of this fundraiser!

Happy Birthday in October to:



Jean Foster, Oct 12

Lora Edwards, Oct 14

Stephanie Paia Oct 17

Every Day is a Gift

Every Birthday is a Gift

Aretha Franklin

SNR District 3

Michelle, Carole, Paula, Roni and Marilyn attended the District 3 meeting on September 29, hosted by SI Metro Sacramento. The guest speaker was Christina Preston, founder/director of **Shoes 4 Sacramento**. The theme was Marilyn Monroe's famous quote "Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world".



We were encouraged to donate (used or new) shoes of all types: women's, children's, men's. And boy, did we! **SIGS won the prize for donating the most shoes.** They will be distributed to homeless groups, school free-clothing closets, Women's Empowerment, and many others.

Other presentations included Live Your Dream, Public Awareness, and programs. We were recognized with certificates of appreciation for our involvement in SNR and SIA programs.



Tracey Edwards, our District 3 Director, has started a periodic email newsletter sent to all members. If you haven't checked it out, it has links to the presentations at the meeting, as well as two cool anti-human trafficking apps.

Service is Our Mission

Every day, people serve their neighbors and our nation in many different ways, from helping a child learn, easing the loneliness of those without a family, to defending our freedom overseas.

It is in this spirit of dedication to others and to our country that I believe service should be broadly and deeply encouraged.

John McCain 1936-2018

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PO Box 601504
Sacramento, CA 95860

President Michelle Whisenand
michelle@divorcewithrespect.com

SIGS News Editor
Cindra Smith
cindrasmith@comcast.net

Lunch & Meetings

Jackson Catering, 1120 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento
Cost: \$22

We are enjoying our second year at Jackson Catering as our venue for our lunches. They have excellent food, easy parking, and keep the cost low. Please respond to **Carole D's** email prior to each meeting asking you to RSVP. If you respond yes or no, you won't get a reminder email, so keep your in-box free of clutter and respond quickly! Thanks.

If you need to cancel, contact Carole as soon as you can. However, no shows and late cancellations may still be responsible for covering the cost of the lunch if we are charged for it.

Guests and potential members are always welcome. The club covers the cost of the first lunch for a potential member. Contact **Paula Maw**, VP Membership, if you would like her to send a letter inviting your guest to membership.



Calendar & Links

2018

- November 6 Lunch Meeting
- December 4 Lunch Meeting (Business/Fun)
- December 8 WE Craft Party



Sierra Nevada Region

www.soroptimistsnr.org

For member specific forms, use the password 1921

2019

- January 8 Evening Meeting (Holiday Party)
- January 15 Lunch Meeting



Soroptimist International of the Americas

www.soroptimist.org,

ID: your member number, Password: your member number

- February 5 Lunch Meeting
- February 29 Lunch Meeting

- March 5 Lunch Meeting (Grants)
- March 19 Lunch Meeting

Soroptimist International



www.soroptimistinternational.org,

ID = member, Password = Cambridge

- April 2 Lunch Meeting
- April 6 Annual Retreat (Business)
- April TBD SNR Conference

- May 7 Lunch Meeting
- May 9 It's in the Bag Fundraiser
- May 21 Lunch Meeting

- June 4 Evening - Installation
- June 11 Joint Board Meeting

Have Fun and
Get It Done