



Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas

Since 1968

Empowering disadvantaged women and girls to live up to their potential

WEB VERSION



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SNR Meeting Report

Birthdays

- 8 Diana
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Club Meeting

1st & 3rd Thur.
Desert Pines Golf
11:45 am, lunch \$19

Aug 3 Business
Aug 17 Program Speaker
Sept 2 Board Meeting
Sept 7 Business

Other Meetings!

District 6 Fall mtg,
Oct 14, SI Carson City

SNR Region conference,
April 27-29 2018, Atlantis
Reno

SIA Federation
Convention, July 30-Aug 2,
2018, Yokohama Japan

SI International
Convention, July 2019,
Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Prez Sez:

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas has made it through July's excessive heat as well as floods ominous Do Not Drown warnings. Members were given the task of meeting with committees and planning for the new year. I had the pleasure of meeting with most of them. In retrospect, I hope they are not drowning with all that life has asked of them, work, family, health and their dedication to helping people. To demonstrate the worth of what you have started, I want to share the story of Annie, a Senior Share client. This program is one of SIGLV service projects, Senior Share began seven years ago



providing weekend food for frail and impoverished seniors. The majority are women with an average income of a little over \$700 monthly. Besides the weekend food, it was also noted that the majority of clients appeared very isolated and depressed. Since suicide was a high risk factor with this age group, it was decided to not only provide weekend food but to also develop a brunch and other social activities. Change did not occur quickly but in time it was noted that friendships developed and smiles were much more prevalent. Annie was a woman whose face had been horribly disfigured through cancer. She wore a mask and shunned social contact. Gradually as she came Friday after Friday,

the mask came off and she became a part of the circle of friends. We saw her for the last time three weeks ago. When she did not appear for brunch staff went to look for her and found that she had died peacefully. This is not a sad story because in a way Annie re-learned her own self-value because of a service we all helped provide. Annie is only one example of the dignity of service and what it means. There are Annie stories in all of our service projects and I hope you will share them.

President Alicia

Distinguished Program Speaker August 17 11:45—12:45, Desert Pines Golf Club

Trends for Women in Education Edith Fernández, Ph.D.



Dr. Edith Fernández, a proven administrative professional skilled in building relationships with community leaders, elected and government officials, will speak on "Trends for Women in Education." She

has substantial experience in the field of higher education with expertise in institutional research, student success initiatives, and strategic collaborations as well as significant marketing and organizational leadership skills. She has built a reputation as a tireless advocate for postsecondary education.



SIGLV Accepts Friendship Link with SI Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and District, Northern England.

Their members wish to truly share a practical project that impacts the well being of girls. Our THT project appealed to them. They also help victims of human trafficking with "new start bags." Now begins the paperwork. Both SIA and SIGBI Federations will approve this official link! We are looking forward to contact between members. Homework? Look up their location!... Hint? It is near the ocean/sea.



"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart"

Eleanor Roosevelt



**SIGLV July 2017-June 2018
Committee Assignments**

*Celebrate what we have done and
Plan for what we will do*

**Service-Esther Gregurek-President
Elect**

Awards-Catherine Bellver/Alicia Davisson
Programs-Shirley Hancen/Barbara
Agonia

Service-Leah Guevera-chair

Nancy Hippert, Sue Cavaco
Claire Kurlinski. Trude McMahan
Barbara Hall, Kim Harney Moore

**Technical Committees-Nancy Hippert
Solt n Gold- Barbara Agonia and helpers**

Finance -Claire Kurlinski/Ann Taylor
Membership-Dawn Walker-Chair
Ann Taylor. Leah Guevera
Fundraising-Kim Harney Moore-Chair
Sue Cavaco, Susie Magit, Kathy Speck,
Misty Chadwick, Dawn Walker, Nancy
Hippert, Catherine Bellver
**Communications: Newsletter/Social
Media-** Lois Sagel, Kathy Speck
Sunshine- Barbara Hall/Susie Magit
Laws and Resolutions- Trude McMahan
Social Committee—Sue and Susie

*Whatever any committee does is only a
map, the whole club plots the way by
helping together.*

SIGLV 2017-2018 Board
President: Alicia Davisson
President-Elect: Esther Gregurek
Vice President: Nancy Hippert
Secretary: Catherine Bellver
Treasurer: Ann Taylor
Director: Shirley Hancen
Two-year delegate: Dawn Walker
One-year delegate: Susie Magit

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MEETINGS:

1st and 3rd Thursdays: 11:45 am,
Desert Pines Golf Club,

3415 Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89101

E-Newsletter published on the 10th of each
month and sent via your preferred email.

Committee Contact Lois Sagel

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**The Embracing Project Donation
Esther & Esther**

SIGLV recently donated \$1,500 to The Embracing Project, which provides mentoring, advocacy, clothing and hygiene items, tutoring, life skills training, and more to restore and heal child victims of sex trafficking.

explained founder Esther Brown. She established the organization in 2007 in an effort to serve children and adolescents affected by violence. Our donation is off to a good start, providing bus passes and IDs for the girls in her program.

"We work to ascertain what services are required to begin the healing process,"

"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart"
Eleanor Roosevelt



Sierra Nevada Region (SNR)

www.soroptimistsnr.org

Login user = your email
Password = sign up for your
account



**Soroptimist Int. of the Americas
(SIA)**

www.soroptimist.org



Soroptimist International (SI)

www.soroptimistinternational.org



Committee Source and Updates

WEB VERSION



Board Action: August

- * SIGLV approved a \$100 donation for the Dress a Girl Around the World project. Members were also encouraged to donate or sew if they so desired.
- * Fall District Meeting is October 14, hosted by SI Carson City.
- * Discussion was held about the possibility of chartering new clubs in Mesquite and Ely. There is also possible discussion concerning St. George joining our district.

Awards Committee

The club is reinstating our "RUBY" award for the coming year, to celebrate a special woman who goes beyond to help

other women. Suggestions to Catherine/Trude.

Gold n Solty showcased Geneva Douglas as someone who exemplified the spirit of these 50 years. This reminded all of us how important leadership and sharing of ideals are to our own personal growth and those of others,

Senior Share: Breakfast Buddies

The once a month senior breakfast is Aug 18, 8:30-11:30 am at East Valley Family Services. Members are welcome to serve and socialize.



WOW Moments!

- Barbara Agonia states she is still in medical jail because of tests and lack of diagnosis. We are all looking forward to when she will be granted Medical Parole.
- Rumor has it that a Baskin Robbins Birthday party is being planned for Stella Butterfield's 92nd birthday in Sept. More to come.
- Nancy, Catherina and Alicia were sighted at I-Hop for breakfast and then later at the Antique Mall to see what they could find. They didn't.
- Kim & hubby off to Atlanta to spend time with grandkids
- Dawn back from travels that took her out of town for most of July. Now off for another 10-days.
- Barbara Hall lending us her artistic skills. She handmade greeting cards for the Sunshine committee.
- Hopefully, we are all lucky enough to receive one in the mail!
- Leah's daughter qualified for all honors classes as she starts her sophomore year this month. Congratulations, Savannah!
- Diana back a little sooner than expected from cabin in Canada. Repairs were a lot more than expected, but good news is arrangements have been made for rehab of cabin over the next year while Diana enjoys the comforts of her home in Las Vegas.

Sweet Fantasy (fundraising) Committee



Members of the Fundraising Committee met on August 1, 2017 to begin planning Sweet Fantasy tentatively set for Sunday, February 11, 2018. Different venue options are being considered. Important factors include a venue that can accommodate at least 300 people, will allow us to use JinJu Chocolates as the caterer and has minimal cost. The committee welcomes any suggestions and contacts.

We decided to reach out to Vita Corimbi Drew, star of *Menopause The Musical*, to serve as Mistress of Ceremonies again as well as Lori Legacy, also of *Menopause The Musical*, for entertainment.

The committee discussed potential partnerships and allocation of funds decided on the following allocations:

• 10% each to Teens Helping Teens and Club Giving which the club approved at Business Meeting on June 15, 2017.

• A motion was made and approved at the August 3, 2017 Business meeting to give 10% each to Castaways and an Anti-Human Trafficking Program to be named later date.

It is not too early to begin soliciting raffle and silent auction prizes. A revised Fact Sheet and donation request letter will be sent to all club members in August. Thank you to the committee and all club members for your support



President-Elect Esther and I visited the Embracing Project to present the club's donation and to get better acquainted with the program. As you enter the small office, don't look for a waiting room. Instead you will be greeted by a hydroponic system. The girls as a group entered a contest on Facebook for this

machine and won. They now raise herbs using recycled water. The day we were there they were learning how to make pesto. This program serves 300 young victims of trafficking, each year, ranging in age from 12 to 19. They attend an accredited school daily conducted by a teacher from Lincoln County. SIGLV's donation is being used for purchase of bus passes and help with IDs. Esther Brown, the director of the program, sees that each girl has a safe place to be every night before she goes home. The service committee is currently planning monthly classes for the girls ranging from career selection, self-care, finances and yes, an excerpt from Nancy's Women's History program. It is evident to see that

all energies and money go to helping the girls and it is a delight to see the smiling faces of young girls who not long ago had no smiles.

**President
 Alicia**



WOW, what an amazing month of donations! Thank you, thank you! Summer survival kit goodies including a very generous donation from Dawn of women's personal items, plus her friend Sondra donated men's hair products from Zaga's Salon. School supplies including back packs, binders, notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, pencil cases, paper and so much more. We also received bags of personal items, baseball hats, breath mints and so much more. Topped off with Kathy and Lois purchasing 100 yards of blizzard fleece as part of our SNR grant. We emptied the shelves of almost all of the fleece in JoAnns. Giant savings, and we've got a huge smile. Thank you all. We continue to look for more items for the summer outreach kits. We also circulated a call for used Texas Instrument Math Advanced calculators. Something your kids might have left in a drawer can help our kids get through their classes.

2017 Soroptimist - Sierra Nevada Region Development Retreat July 8-9,

Reno



Thank you for the opportunity to attend this Soroptimist Retreat. I enjoyed meeting other club members from the region. The retreat was jammed packed with workshops and programs. Because there were three representatives of our club in attendance (Ann, Esther, and me), we made an effort to attend different offerings.

The first workshop I attended was conducted by our own Trude. The subject Legislative Advocacy was clearly a subject she is very passionate about. Time was spent clarifying the somewhat subtle differences between advocacy and lobbying. As a non-profit organization, Soroptimists need to be very careful not to cross the line in support or in opposition to issues and programs. Trude stressed the importance of individual club participation in this important activity. Not only is it important to identify who you know, but even more important, who you need to know, i.e. city, county, school districts, officials, etc. Advice was offered on how to prepare a written statement in support or opposition stressing the need to be concise, complete, clear in purpose; keep it short (oral statements five minutes or less, be positive, leave emotion behind and be courteous). "The more you know, the better you will be. This workshop was well-attended and well-received. Rules vs. Laws . . . Protocols vs. Manners. Workshop leader, Jacque Brown, provided an interesting workshop, including some very helpful handouts. So much of what she discussed relied on club members and club officers to just use common sense in the conduct of meetings. However, there

are certain procedures that should be followed and it was good to review these items. I found it useful to hear her speak to the differences between bylaws and standing rules. Probably it is not the most exciting subject, but one I have had to deal with in other organizations and it is the first time I think I am now more comfortable with the differences.

Grant Writing: Fear and Loathing or Fun and Frolic was presented by Pam Russell. Her power point presentation was concise and directly to the point. Where to begin—some very basic questions needed to be addressed before a club even considers putting together a grant proposal. The search begins, a grant looks like it might work, and then putting together the application. I think one of the most important points she made was noting how to measure outcomes. In other words, what a club's goals include, how these objectives will be accomplished and what difference did we make?

Because we are in the preliminary planning stages for our major fundraiser of the program year, I opted to attend Funding your Soroptimist Mission, Party with Purpose. Handouts included various worksheets to assist in the planning and execution of the event and the final wrap-up. My limited involvement with Sweet Fantasy tells me we do a very good job in all of these categories but I will pass along to Kim the materials I received.

Lastly, I attended a workshop on Membership. The subject of member retention and cost of dues was discussed. The awarding of scholarships for this purpose was discussed as well. Jackie Sillman, the presenter, suggested using social media as a recruitment tool and stressed that clubs be more welcoming. She noted that August is the recruiting month and in talking to prospective members clubs we recognize Soroptimists have a great story to tell and

we should be spreading the word. With respect to retention, telephone trees can play a significant role in keeping contact with members who may not come to meetings on a regular basis. Keeping in touch, writing personal notes, can make a difference. Sillman concluded her remarks by addressing the issue of membership participation. If it is not where it should be, is it because of a lack of interest or a loss of interest, she asked. She also threw out a comment, is a club engaged in too many projects?

Materials from the retreat (handouts from workshops) are available on the region's website.

At lunch, a presentation (video) was shown introducing the group to "Dress A Girl Around the World." This is a project which the regional has expressed an interest in having clubs in the region participate and support. The program is a project of Hope 4 Women International, a 501 c 3 organization. If interested, I recommend checking out their websites: www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com and www.h4wi.org.

I thought this was a well-planned retreat. The workshops I attended were conducted by very competent presenters. Handouts were much appreciated as was the willingness to encourage interaction among the attendees and the presenter in the form of discussions and questions/answer sessions. I would be remiss if I did not mention that the hotel makes an excellent lemon drop martini.

Nancy Hippert
Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas
Business Meeting, August 3, 2017.