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SOROPTAHOE 2010

Volume LI Issue 8 January 2010

President's Message

A new "decade" .. a "new year" resolution .. wishing each and everyone many enriching Soroptimist experiences; to dedicate your personal time, to help women and girls enjoy a better life this year. As my first six months draws to a close, I want to say thank you for the many memories that I have .. snapshots of many powerful, caring women that make a tremendous difference for our community.

I want to thank Alice Wells for her visit in December and the enlightening presentation on Trafficking and Sexting. What an opportunity for us; perhaps a gateway to another committee? And, a huge thank you to Deb Howard who acted as our facilitator for the Holiday Auction. "We done good" !!! It was an extremely successful event and again, thank you to those that donated spectacular gifts and to those who made generous donations for them.

Exciting, exhilarating, absolutely excellent ... Jaycee's account has reached the magic number of \$50,000 and counting. Thanks to Roxie for making the trip to Sacramento to present the check to the law firm now handling the trust account for Jaycee. This was certainly a momentous occasion ... we should be very proud.

Another little known Soroptimist fact .. can you name the 19 countries that comprise Soroptimist International of the Americas?? Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay,



Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela.

Resuming a full schedule in January, it will be important to show your support of the club by attending these dynamic programs. The Ruby Awards, Young Women of Distinction (South Lake Tahoe High School) and the Business Faire .. what a line up!

The Winter District II meeting (which we are hosting this year) is almost upon us - save the dates - February 19th and 20th. Our Friday evening event will be a blind wine tasting - reds, whites and bubbly! Pot luck to boot !! We will have an opportunity to present "A Fighting Chance" to all of the clubs in attendance during Saturday's meeting. Don't miss this one!

It's time to consider attending the 41st SIA Biennial Convention being held in San Francisco July 7-10. This is one of those rare opportunities .. more to follow ..

And to all a good night ...
Enjoy, Linda

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Committee Chairs

Attendance

*Susan Middleton &
Linda Mitchell*

Recruitment & Retention

Laurie Ault

Programs

*Joyce Blackstone &
Del Laine*

Facilities

Jean Gurney

Publicity

*Natasha Kidman &
Jennifer Scanio*

Cultural Arts

*Katie Schultz &
Jeanne Androvich*

Education/Youth

*Cynthia Gillis &
Jennifer Scanio*

Environment

*Vicki Gonzales &
Lori Klobas*

International Goodwill & Understanding

Melanie Foerschler

Fighting Chance

Lindy Mendizabal

Wine Tasting

Val Connors

Golf Tournament

Michelle Sower

Allocations

Nicole Jane

Laws & Resolutions

Del Laine

THERE IS NO FREE LUNCH ...

By: Linda Mendizabal

(Editor's note: this article was written in 2009 and is being republished at the request of our Attendance Committee)

We have a lot of new members and the question has come up, as it periodically does, if a member or guest who cannot eat what is served on a particular day still needs to pay the meeting fee. And the answer is yes. If, due to dietary restrictions or any other reason you are not going to eat the meal, then just consider your \$10. as the cost of using the room.

We are fortunate to have this facility in which to meet - there are very few places that can accommodate a group our size at any price. However, the arrangement we have with Harrah's is a trade-off: the meal is economically priced, the service is wonderful, but we eat what is served (just like home!). Specifically, we piggy back on what is prepared for convention business that week.

We are aware that, in general, restaurant meals are high fat and, from time to time, have tried to adjust the menu. But here's what it comes down to: our members don't want to pay \$20 for lunch and they do want fancy desserts. The lesson is: we cannot please everyone (no surprise there). So, for every member who wishes out loud that we could have salad every week, there is another member who wants meat and potatoes. For every member that longs for a piece of fruit for dessert, there are 5 members who want cheesecake. There is no way to serve a single banquet style meal that will please everyone. So, we don't ask for special meals and Harrah's keeps the price low.

Harrah's has been very good to us. We have a wonderful facility that can accommodate a variety of program meetings. If you've attended other club meetings you know that this club has an enviable arrangement. Clubs that meet in restaurants have a setup similar to when we occasionally meet at Andreotti's - the seating is NOT conducive to a program. And other than a few very small clubs, I've never attended meeting where members order off a menu.

Our program meetings are often publicized and we have guests in attendance. Please let guests know they are not guests of the club and are expected to pay \$15 for the privilege of hearing the speaker. We've occasionally had public forums or other meetings that draw numerous members of the public with a few trying to bypass the attendance table because they don't want lunch. The club had to pay for those lunches. (Editor's Note: PLEASE make guests aware of this food policy prior to all meetings!!)

So, that's the deal. In addition to your dues, you will pay \$360 per year for a lunch voucher for a chair at a meeting and eating is optional.



**Happy
Birthday
to our
January
Birthdays!**

January 15th Kathleen Brown
January 20th Nina Anderson
January 21st Kimberly Green
Pittman
January 25th Carolyn MacRae
January 31st Cathy Di Camillo

SIA NEWS

President Cathy Standiford invites you to join Soroptimist in San Francisco, July 7-10, 2010, for its 41st Biennial Convention. Visit the meetings section of Soroptimist.org for information about speakers and fun things to do in San Francisco.

**CLUB
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Allocations Committee

The allocations committee recommendation for grant monies will be presented to the club, January 6th. The awardees luncheon is scheduled for February 10th so mark your calendars!

IGU Committee

The IGU committee would like to invite everyone to their January meeting. It will be held on January 27 at 11:00 before the lunch meeting wherever the lunch meeting is held. We will be looking at possible club meeting presentations and hearing reports on members research. For more information please contact Lindy Mateas or Jeanne Androvich, co-chairs.

Attendance Committee

We wanted to remind everyone that January begins a new quarter. That means that \$90 is due at our Jan. 6 meeting. If you didn't pay for the last quarter, and did not have an exemption, please pay for that one retroactively when you pay for this quarter.

We thought this would be a good time to go over how we deal with exemptions.

A member can request a quarterly exemption for the following reasons:

1. Geographic residency of member
2. Health emergency to self or family member
3. Financial hardships

If you are granted an exemption for a quarter and need to extend it to the next quarter, you must apply again. Also, if you have been granted an exemption and attend a meeting during that quarter, you must check in with attendance and pay the \$10. for that meeting.

We realize this sounds pretty rigid, but it will help us keep our (your) finances in order. When we don't balance or when we don't know what is going on with you, it can get pretty confusing.

Big – Big & Bigger



For a long time it seems like everything was getting smaller, or else I was getting bigger. Candy bars shrunk to the size of your thumb, and cars wasted away so you could see each individual one huddled in its space in the parking lot. We never lost them in those days; there were even baby pick-up trucks. Houses shrunk to 700 square feet, condos and apartments were built on bath mat sized lots. The economy had contracted and even people seemed to be rather short. Remember when Danny DeVito was a big star in “Taxi”? Now I feel like I’m Alice living in Wonderland because everything is whooshing back into huge shapes.

First take clothes. Kids started buying clothes so huge that one shirt and a pair of pants was a whole washer load. The actual kids could be any size – no one could tell. I haven’t seen my own grandkids behinds since they were eight years old. Most kids stores carry only large, extra large, or extra extra large. No one wears a small or medium any more, they don’t even have that size in the store in buy.

Tiny economical cars are being run over on the highways every day by huge sports vehicles whose drivers simply can’t see them on the road. The average mom with school age kids is rumbling off to school in a vehicle that can drive under the snow like that one on T.V. does.

When you go out for a cup of coffee we are served coffee in cups the size our milk shakes used to come in. Whole families can now share one soda from a typical fast food store, the only problem being , it takes three people to cart if out to the car.

I guess it’s no surprise that we are getting bigger and bigger too. We are, almost off of us, overweight. There are still some skinny ones around and don’t we hate them! I’ll really start to worry when I see arms and legs sticking out of the windows of our houses.

The number one complaint about air travel is the size of the seats, but it isn’t exactly the seats that are the problem.

And basketball player! While the basket has stayed at the regulation height, the heads of the players have begun to pop up around like plants in the spring. Even their shorts have grown into hung, flapping things, (to my personal disappointment.) Football players have grown a foot and doubled in weight since 1950. I expect to see a refrigerator sized box next to the playing field with a sign – “You must fill this box to play in the NFL.”

Naturally we have huge stores that sell high sizes and big amounts of everything to fill up our growing “Pillsbury Doughboy” shelves. There is even a store that apparently sells nothing but staples. Book store are as big a football fields, and you can sit and read with a giant latté on the table beside you.

What the heck is going on in our world? Can you answer that question?

The Anonymous Soroptimist

SISLT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January



January 6th

Business Meeting – Harrah’s Rooms C & D
We need a quorum to vote on the Allocations Committee recommendations.

January 13th

“Ruby Awards” – Harrah’s Rooms C & D
Formerly the Women Helping Women Award, this year’s recipients are Linda LaFavor Coyle & Dr. Kelly Shanahan.



January 20th

“Young Women of Distinction – STHS”
Harrah’s Sand Harbor III Room
Today we honor students from STHS: Alexis Holmes, Rachel Kaufer, Catie Kushner and Sandra Zapeda

January 27th

“Show & Tell” – Harrah’s Rooms A & B
Networking Business Faire – Once a year, about 8 of our members get a chance to give in-depth information about their businesses. It’s called Networking!