

SIGS News

Volume 22, Issue 3
November/December 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 November/December

November 6 Lunch Meeting at Jackson's

Amber Stott, CEO & Chief Food Genius of Food Literacy Center informed and entertained us with her stories of teaching low-income elementary children cooking and nutrition. A key takeaway is that cactus is delicious! For recipes, go to <https://www.foodliteracycenter.org>



No Second Meeting in November: Happy Thanksgiving

December 4 Lunch Meeting at Jackson's

This is one of the most fun and important meetings of the year, when we gather together to prepare for the Holiday Craft Party, bring our gifts for the holiday stockings for Women's Empowerment (see page 3), and celebrate the holidays with each other.

December 8 Women's Empowerment Holiday Craft Party



Judy Dean and her co-chairs report that SIGS is getting ready for this great event, which is just around the corner! Santa is counting the days until his visit and crafters are prepping for the fun. Please keep collecting mugs, books for both adults and children, and large bags (including bags strong enough to hold books from the book table).

Craft tables are being finalized, including fun new crafts of bookmarks and sachets and more. **Please let Roni or Judy know if you are willing to staff and/or organize a craft table (see page 3)**

We will send more information on set up and decoration as soon as we hear from St. Francis, So watch your emails! Contact **Judy Dean** to make sure you are on the list for volunteering.

December 12 Hidden Support Gifting

12:45 at Women's Empowerment

Women's Empowerment Class 73 is graduating in December, and SIGS members are needed to help purchase the lingerie on **December 4** and then deliver the gifts to the graduates (see page 4). Contact **Faye** or **Stephanie**.



Got Photo?

Stephanie is working on a spiffy new updated roster. To make it the best ever, she requests that you email her a high resolution picture of yourself in JPG format due **by November 30th**. Send to: roster@sacramentosoroptimists.org. THANKS!!!



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**

It is my turn to host Thanksgiving this year. My husband is in a panic because I have been working long hours, I have no plan as yet, and I have a tendency to get worked up over trying to make everything perfect. Not this year. If there was ever a time to be reminded about what is truly important it is now. California is once again on fire and people are losing their homes, pets, and their own lives. If my napkins don't match, I can't imagine anyone caring.

As we approach the holiday season, I am thankful for what SIGS has been able to accomplish for our community of women and children and what we continue to do. By giving of ourselves, we ease the weight of the worst of the news.

Let's hug a little harder, pause a little longer, and be all the more grateful for what we have and share.

Let's also make December 8th the best it can be. On December 4th, let's bring in those much-needed stockings, coffee cups, ribbon, shopping bags, etc., and even cash to help defray the costs.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

**Board Meeting Highlights**

At the October meeting, the Board:

- Approved buying 100 SIA bookmarks with the slogan Claim Your Dating Rights for the organizations with teen girls that we support.
- Approved Cantina Azteca as the location for our holiday party on January 8th.
- Supported the contest to collect 100 new panties of various sizes to supplement the cost of Hidden Support has been announced.
- Voted to change the name of the mini-grant program to Dream Grants to support SIA's desire to incorporate the Dream theme into as many of our programs as possible.
- Heard updates on the WE Holiday Crafts Party –
- Thanked Stephanie and Hilda, who were our representatives to present the bras and panties to the WE graduates for the last graduation.
- Heard updates about future lunch programs.

At the November meeting, the Board:

- Decided to contribute \$50 from the President's budget item toward Camp Fire disaster relief and to collect funds from members if they wish to contribute [editor's note, see page 5 for SNR donation information]
- Discussed May 9 It's In the Bag event. Sheryl has a draft contract for review.
- Heard a report on the member roster with a strategy to reduce the cost.
- Adopted a new agreement with the Regional Foundation, subject to SIGS Treasurer approval.
- Live Your Dream application deadline is Nov. 15th.
- SIGS Dream Grants (previously mini-grants) deadline is January 9.
- Reminder that all SIGS working at Holiday Craft Party need completed background checks.
- VP of Programs reported that all program dates have been filled.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT Holiday Wish List

Help us bring joy to formerly homeless women and their children by participating in our annual Stocking Drive!

Stuff For Stockings

For as long as your editor can remember, SIGS has been instrumental in ensuring that Women's Empowerment clients have stockings for the holidays. SIGS provides empty stockings (thank you to **Marilyn** and her crew) and the \$15 Target Gift Cards for each stocking (thanks to **Laurie Bowling** for picking them up).

So, you just need to shop for and bring the remaining items for two (if possible) stockings from the list below **to the December 4 meeting**:

- ☆ **Infant or Toddler:** fleece gloves and hat; socks; ONE of the following: sippy cup, small toy.
- ☆ **Young Child (age 3-7):** fleece gloves and hat, socks; ONE of the following: small stuffed animal, building set, art set, small toy
- ☆ **Child (age 8-12):** fleece gloves and hat; socks; ONE of the following: simple game, building set, art set, jewelry or watch.
- ☆ **Teen (age 13-18):** fleece gloves and hat; socks; ONE \$10 gift card for Starbucks, fast food, Target, Amazon, etc.
- ☆ **Women:** fleece gloves and hat; socks; ONE \$10 gift card for Starbucks, fast food, Target, Amazon, etc.

Or, you can send a financial donation to W.E. and elves will do the shopping for you. The average cost is about \$40.



WE Holiday Craft Party Crafters

By Judy Dean

Roni Bowling is coordinating all of the crafters for the Party, and SIGS is well-represented. She is looking for someone to do the zipper pulls (at least as of the November 16 meeting.)

- **Stephanie** is again doing **mugs** filled with the makings for yummy treats (hot chocolate, tea, etc.) She'll be at her Hawaii celebration, so someone else will be staffing the table. She is so grateful for support and writes:

To all who have donated coffee mugs for the craft station thus far: Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! I could not believe it when Marilyn and Sally delivered boxes, bins and bags (oh my!) of mugs after just one lunch meeting. President Michelle also delivered more mugs to me just the other day. So far I have 86 donated mugs for the craft station and I haven't even started my own campaign for mugs among my family and friends. Just when I think there couldn't be anything more that this Club can do that will surprise me, I find myself struck with awe at what you have accomplished in a week's time. I am both proud and humbled to be associated with you amazing Soroptimist. Bottom line, I couldn't do this without you SIGS. Thank you all once again for your kind and generous nature. ~ Yours in Service, Stephanie P.



- **Marilyn** is heading up a new craft table, making **scented sachets**. A friend of hers from Powerhouse Science Center has volunteered to staff it. If anyone has ideas or supplies for what goes into them, please let her know. She also has and needs squares of material, metal or plastic twist ties, and ribbon to supply the station.
- **Lora Edwards & Laurel Bell-Cahill** are helping people make **eyeglass and tissue holders**.
- **Susan Gower** is returning as the **jewelry and bracelets maven**.
- **Bookmarks** is a new table, thanks to **Hilda Tonarely** for staffing it.
- **Stephanie** is also planning a **tree ornaments with Hershey kisses** station, but we will need someone else to staff it.
- **Penny Brown** will be helping with either **books** or **gift wrapping**. We are looking for volunteers to help at either or both of those.
- The **zipper pulls** creation needs someone to help with that.
- **Cozy "Cupcakes"** (not a food item--socks/lotion made to look like a cupcake) is planned by busy elf **Stephanie**, and will need to be staffed by someone else.

Thanks to all SIGS and our other volunteers, including the St. Francis young women, who will make this event another special day for the Women's Empowerment women and their children.



Panties Galore!

By President Michelle

Thanks to everyone who has already donated panties to our Panty Contest. You are helping to defray the costs for Hidden Support when buying bras and panties for our WE graduates.

We are well on our way to our goal of **100 pairs of panties by January 31, 2019**. Panties not used for Hidden Support will be donated to other organizations in need (and, sadly, there are many of them).

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.



Last chance for EVOO HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

By Marilyn Goodfellow

Contact me if you need any of the following. I'll bring them to a meeting or you can pick them up.



Ternero Farms Olive Oil Products

- ❖ Picual Olive Oil \$15
- ❖ Flavored Oil (Basil, Jalapeno, Herb Blend) 15
- ❖ Body Oil (rosemary, lavender) \$13.50 each
- ❖ Soap (orange, lavender) \$8 each

Capay Ranches Balsamic Vinegars, \$15 each

- ❖ Cranberry, Pear, Mango-Sriracha)

Want Gift Bags for your Olive Oil products? Sally has added to the collection and is selling lovely fabric gift bags, \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Check out the selection at the Dec 4 meeting.

Hidden Support and Session 72

By Stephanie Paia

In mid-September, **Hilda** and I had the privilege of presenting Hidden Support to the 17 graduates that represented Session 72. This was my first time presenting Hidden Support to the WE graduates, and it was an experience I will not soon forget. Hilda and I were escorted into the classroom and introduced to the ladies by the WE staff members. We were invited to call out and hand each graduate their gift bag, containing a new bra in their size, and a couple of pairs of panties. Each lady in turn thanked us.

At the end of our presentation one graduate stood up and thanked us once again on behalf of all her classmates for coming out and for supporting them. The graduate was articulate, confident and very sincere. Our presentation was indeed brief as the staff members needed to resume class, but I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would welcome the opportunity to present Hidden Support again. Congratulations Session 72!



Don't Forget to "Smile" this Holiday

If you are thinking about shopping on Amazon for gifts, be sure to go to AmazonSmile when doing so. If you haven't signed up for it, Google "About AmazonSmile" for answers to your questions. Use "smile.amazon.com" and choose Soroptimist International of Greater Sacramento as the charitable organization you wish to support.

It's a small percentage that is donated (our yearly "take" is \$50 to \$60), but every little bit helps!

Note: Your editor just bought her stocking gloves and hats for WE from Amazon Smile. It's soooo easy....

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazonsmile



Superstars!

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! To join in, simply present your check to Michelle or Jean at any meeting/function and start bragging!

New Superstars include **Cindra Smith** for her successful (first) total knee replacement, and **Alice Carney** to honor all the women who fought to secure our right to vote (she donated on Election Day, November 6). They join **Laurel Bell Cahill, Lora Edwards, Marilyn Goodfellow, Sally Johnson, Carol Little, Stephanie Paia, and Millie Stone**. Thanks so much everyone!

Every great dream
begins with a dreamer.
Always remember,
you have within you
the strength,
the patience, and
the passion to reach for
the stars to change the
world.

Harriet Tubman

Happy Birthday to:

Cindra Smith, November 9
Marilyn Goodfellow, November 18
Laurel-Bell Cahill, November 22
Kay Rasmussen, December 28
Janet Garland, December 31

Success is like reaching an
important birthday and finding
you're exactly the same.

Audrey Hepburn

BrainyQuote



Sierra Nevada Region

Be sure to read the November eblast emailed to all members by Governor Lane Parks on November 15 if you haven't already. It is chock full of news with particular attention to the impact of and response to the fires in Butte County. **A link to the the PayPal accounts set up by the Chico and Bidwell Rancho clubs is on the SNR website, www.soroptimistsnr.org, or mail a check to SNR CAMP FIRE, c/o SI Bidwell Rancho, PO Box 9170, Chico, CA 95927**

Governor Lane wrote in part. "Those of us that live anywhere in Northern California are breathing smoke on a daily basis and it serves as a constant reminder of the devastation caused by the Camp Fire that wiped out Paradise and some other small towns and still is burning. Not surprisingly, Soroptimists have risen to the occasion to help our fellow members that have been displaced as well as other victims. I cannot thank the two Chico clubs enough for their swift action and continued support. ... We support you as well as the victims, as your kindness and compassion speaks for us all. Thank you!! ---As of this writing [November 15], **we have raised over \$10,000!** Our members' generosity is amazing!



The eblast included reports from the clubs' presidents on their responses. Highlights are:

- Chico and Bidwell Rancho held a joint meeting to create action plans and are continuing to work together and to communicate through Facebook and other social media.
- "Adopt a Soroptimist" At least 15 current and former members were impacted by the fires. Each has a team from the clubs responding to their needs.
- Providing housing resources; volunteering at shelters; cooking and delivering mass quantities of food.

In addition to information on the disaster response, the Eblast has information about Dress a Girl, the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur, and a link to the results of the membership service (to which 230 people responded!).

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www.sacramentosoroptimists.org

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

2019	
January 8	Evening Holiday Party Cantina Azteca
January 15	Lunch Meeting
February 5	Lunch Meeting
February 29	Lunch Meeting
March 5	Lunch Meeting (Grants)
March 19	Lunch Meeting
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



Sierra Nevada Region

www.soroptimistsnr.org

For member specific forms, use the password 1921



Soroptimist International of the Americas

www.soroptimist.org,

ID: your member number, Password: your member number

Soroptimist  International

www.soroptimistinternational.org,

ID = member, Password = Cambridge

Have Fun and
Get It Done