

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
SIERRA NEVADA REGION
Friday, April 27, 2018**

Events occurring Friday included: Candidates' Forum by Coordinator Barbara Smiley; Strategic Planning Made Easy by Jennifer Spear, MBA; Stop Trafficking Update by Joanne Tremelling, Jeanie Ferguson, and Sarah Carrasco; and Delegates Briefing by Jacque Brown, SNR Parliamentarian.

A Cocktail Reception, sponsored by Heather Clark of Next Step Wealth Management, was held to meet the official visitor, SIA President-Elect Elizabeth Di Geronimo.

Friday evening dinner entitled *Imagine If*, sponsored by Sally Mendez of US Bank, began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America led by Treasurer Pam Greever. Governor Vicki introduced the region's official visitor, SIA President-Elect Elizabeth Di Geronimo. Governor-Elect Lane Parks introduced the region board and District 6 Director Sarah Walker gave the Thought for the Evening, "Change Our Attitude" by Maya Angelou. District 1 Director Maureen Mason read the Soroptimist greetings including a message from SIA.

Governor-elect Lane explained SIA is using the logo "S" as the Soroptimist brand effective now. Clubs will have until December 31, 2019 to make the change.

Coordinator Monique Brammeier announced the 4 club winners for SIA's Soroptimist Celebrating Success and they were: SI Chico for Program, SI Fallon for Membership, SI Elk Grove for Fundraising, and SI Elk Grove for Public Awareness.

Coordinator Esther Gregurek presented the Five Star Public Awareness Awards as follows:

A. Innovative Public Awareness (6 entries)

3rd place: Tahoe Sierra

2nd place: Bidwell Rancho

1st place: Elk Grove

B. Newsletter (9 entries)

3rd place: Carson City

2nd place: Greater Sacramento

1st place: Truckee Meadows

C. Social Media (10 entries) This award was presented by Coordinator Mary Meier.

3rd place: Truckee Donner

2nd place: Bidwell Rancho

1st place: Elk Grove

- D. Website (12 entries)**
 - 3rd place: Truckee Donner**
 - 2nd place: Bidwell Rancho**
 - 1st place: Greater Las Vegas**
- E. 5 Star Award for Best Overall Public Awareness**
 - 3rd place: Truckee Donner**
 - 2nd place: Chico**
 - 1st place: Elk Grove**

Governor Vicki announced that Governor-Elect Lane won the Early Bird registration drawing and she received a 1 night stay plus spa treatment at the Atlantis Hotel. This event was sponsored by Heather Clark of Next Step Wealth Management.

Master of Ceremonies Stacey Yurmanovic-Sawyer introduced the entertainment which was “Lip Sync Battle 2” and included 9 clubs lip syncing to a variety of music. A panel of judges decided the following winners: 3rd place, SI Bidwell Rancho, “I Am Woman”; 2nd place, SI Chico “Stronger”; 1st place, SI Loomis Basin, “Can’t Stop This Feeling”. Judges were Kathy DeMille, SI Marysville-Yuba City; Sheila Jefferson-Ross, SI Sacramento North; and Mary Meier, SI Truckee-Donner.

**Saturday, April 27, 2018
Business Session**

The 42nd annual conference was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Governor Vicki Watson. Governor-elect Lane presented the officers and board members and the official SIA visitor President-Elect Elizabeth Di Geronimo. Governor Vicki announced that Jacque Brown, Parliamentarian, will be taking the minutes for the Conference in the absence of Secretary Susan Strople. The Thought for the Day was given by District 5 Director Sarah Carrasco.

The Credentials Report was given by Chairman Kay Dunham as follows:

- Number of Clubs in region: 55**
- Number of Clubs registered: 51**
- Number of Clubs not registered: 4**
- Club Delegates registered:**
 - District 1: 20 + 1 region officer/director**
 - District 2: 13 + 1 region officer/director**
 - District 3: 19 + 2 region officer/director**
 - District 4: 22 + 2 region officer/director**
 - District 5: 22 + 1 region officer/director**
 - District 6: 17 + 1 region officer/director**
 - Federation Officer: 1**
 - Guests registered: 8**

**Total Non-Voting registered: 132
Total Registration: 253
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS REGISTERED: 121**

Kay moved the adoption of the Credentials Report as read and Governor Vicki called for the vote. The motion was adopted by a majority vote of the delegates.

The voting body waived the reading of the Standing Rules as they are written in the program and they were adopted by a 2/3's vote of the delegates.

The next business in order was the adoption of the Program. Governor-Elect Lane reported corrections in the program and moved the adoption as corrected with any future necessary changes. The program was adopted by a majority vote.

Governor-Elect Lane reported that the Minutes Approval Committee for 2017 approved the Conference minutes with minor corrections.

Governor Vicki appointed Treasurer Pam Greever, District 6 Director Sarah Walker, and District 4 Director Jerri Curradi to the 2018 Minutes Approval Committee.

Treasurer Pam presented the treasurer's report which is attached to these minutes. She reported changes in cash position since beginning of the biennium as of June 30, 2016, \$195,715.54 and cash as of March 31, 2018, \$237,810.53. A change in cash +\$42,094.99.

Coordinator Kathy DeMille presented the Finance Committee report.

Coordinator Trude McMahan and member Barbara Agonia spoke on behalf of the Legislative Advocacy Committee stating the importance of women voting.

Federation Membership Chair Jackie Sillman reported on membership for Sierra Nevada Region and an increase of 2 clubs for the biennium, the latest is Soroptimist International of Fernley (in Nevada). Committee member Trudy Mills was recognized for her efforts with the chartering of SI Fernley. Chair Jackie announced that SNR had an increase of 110 new members for a total membership of 1574 in 55 clubs.

District 6 Director Sarah Walker presented approximately 50 new Conference attendees with a sea shell and poem, which she read. A "welcome" personal note was given to each new attendee by Governor Vicki.

District 1 Director Maureen recognized 4 Life members in attendance who have been Soroptimists more than 40 years each. She announced there are 93 Life Members in the Sierra Nevada Region.

Treasurer Pam recognized three clubs for the Blanche Edgar Award for Extension and they include 3rd runner-up SI Sutter-Yuba, 2nd runner-up SI American River, and the award went to SI Trinity County. She also reported that SI Hawthorne, SI Loomis Basin, and SI Trinity County had total membership renewal for 2018.

Coordinator Stacey Yurmanovic-Sawyer presented the Evelyn Holland Recognition for Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training Award to SI Fallon for activities such as a member only face book page, a short SOLT presentation each month, developing a fun game, and “Let’s Make a Deal”. SI Elk Grove came in second place and SI Chico was third place. Seven clubs participated.

In Governor-Elect Lane’s Conference report she reported we raised the dollars earned by 25% for sponsorships and ads over \$19,000. She thanked the following sponsors: Recology, Next Step Wealth Management, Wraith Scarlett and Randolph, Dick’s Rancho Glass at San Juan, Vitek, Elite Realty, Elan Advising, Jack and Jean Duncan, Digiprint, and the presenting sponsor US Bank.

Governor Vicki declared a 15 minute recess.

Governor Vicki reconvened the meeting and introduced SIA President-Elect Elizabeth Di Geronimo. President-Elect Elizabeth has been a member of SI Miranda, Venezuela for 20 years. She will be installed as president of SIA at the Convention in Yokohama, Japan. She presented a slide program about “Jessica” and her story. This story was about Jessica, Director of Marketing and Design for 13 years at SIA. President-Elect Elizabeth stated there are 10.2 million girls throughout SIA in need of our help.

Governor Vicki recognized Yolanda Cuesta for being President-Elect Elizabeth’s assistant throughout the Conference.

The next business in order was the appointment of the timekeepers and tellers. Governor Vicki appointed Poco Davis, Connie Pool, Linda Sheppard, Chris Wells, Betty Matsui, Idelle Claypool, Kathleen Foley, Krista Savala, Chris Campbell and Judy Verry.

Past Governor Poco Davis gave the Nominating Committee Report as Coordinator Barbara Smiley was unable to speak. For the office of governor-elect, Sarah Carrasco, SI Truckee-Meadows; for the office of secretary, Nancy Becker, SI Metro Las Vegas and Didi Chaney, SI Carson City; for the office of treasurer, Sheron Box, SI Bidwell Rancho; for the office of district director 1, Lisa Fitzgerald; district director 2, Terrel Locke, SI Marysville/Yuba City; district director 3, Tracey Edwards, SI Elk Grove; district director 4, Ann Bryant, SI American River; district director 5, Elaine Cassell, SI Elko and Sue Chambers, SI Fallon; and district director 6, Stacey Yurmanovic-Sawyer, SI Metro Las Vegas.

Parliamentarian Jacque Brown read the procedure for nominations from the floor from the SNR Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 C.

Governor Vicki repeated each name that was nominated and asked for further nominations from the floor for each office. As there were no further nominations from the floor for any office the governor declared the nominations closed.

Each candidate was allowed 2 minutes to speak.

Governor Vicki explained to the voting body that our SNR Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 B, state that in the event there is only 1 candidate for an office the vote may be by voice vote. She proceeded to call for the election of district directors in districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. She declared them elected to the position for which they had been nominated and announced there would be a ballot vote for district director 5.

Governor Vicki called for the voice vote for treasurer. Sheron Box was elected by a majority vote. She announced that there would be a ballot vote for the office of secretary. The vote was called for the office of Governor-Elect and Sarah Carrasco was elected by a majority vote.

The second Credentials Report was given by Coordinator Kay Dunham and was as follows:

**District 1: 23 + 1 officer
District 2: 20 + 1 officer
District 3: 26 + 2 officers
District 4: 26 + 2 officers
District 5: 27 + 1 officer
District 6: 18 + 1 officer
Total voting delegates: 148**

Elections Coordinator Linda McDoniels provided instructions and locations for the voting and stated the polls would be opened at 11:15 a.m. and close at 11:45 a.m.

Governor Vicki declared a recess at 11:15 a.m. Lunch seating would begin at 12:15 p.m.

Governor Vicki reconvened the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Stop Trafficking Coordinator Joanne Tremelling updated the assembly on what is happening in California with Stop Trafficking and recognized those clubs who have contributed backpacks, clothing and other items for the victims. Coordinator Jeanie Ferguson, Southern Nevada reported that 59 high schools are planning education programs in this area and hoping to get them involved in art projects. Their goal is 1000 art pieces working with "Break These Chains".org

Contest. Sarah Carrasco reported for Northern Nevada and that the courts are providing projects to help this ongoing issue and introducing legislation in different cities.

Governor Vicki declared a 10 minute recess at 12:50 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1 p.m.

The keynote speaker, Jennifer Spear of Clean Slate Strategies, works with organizations to plan strategically, problem solve and aids them in being creative in the workplace. Her presentation was entitled “Soroptimist Unscripted”. She instilled enthusiasm with the members and involved them in a couple of lively demonstrations.

Federation Fundraising Chair Kim Sayers reported on the Laurel Society and Laurel Legacy programs and encouraged members to purchase bookmarks for a chance at becoming a Laurel member.

Endowment Coordinator Margie Hermanson reported on the clubs receiving grants as follows:

- SI Fallon \$450 for extending Dream it, Be it into a middle school**
- SI Davis \$1000 for Dream it, Be it Empower Yolo Program**
- SI Redding \$1000 for Breast Cancer Event**
- SI Chico \$1000 for mental illness awareness**
- SI Greater Las Vegas \$1000 for a second grant for Teens Helping Teens**

Governor Vicki reported there was no Fellowship report for Saturday and the award will be given on Sunday.

Elections Coordinator Linda delivered the election report which is:

District 5 Director:	the number of votes cast	28
	necessary to elect	15
	Elaine Cassell	8
	Sue Chambers	20
Secretary	the number of votes cast	147
	necessary to elect	74
	Nancy Becker	95
	Didi Chaney	52

Governor repeated the election report and declared Sue Chambers elected to the office of District 5 Director and Nancy Becker elected as Secretary.

Without objection, Governor declared the ballots be destroyed at the end of Conference.

The business session was recessed until 6 p.m. by Governor Vicki.

There were 2 break-out sessions entitled “That’s What You think, Challenge Your Assumptions” by Jennifer Spear and “Are You Going to Japan?” by Governor-Elect Lane and Bonnie Chapman, SI Chico.

Saturday Evening Installation

This event was sponsored by WSR Insurance and Dick’s Rancho Glass. Membership Chair Jackie Sillman announced the Grand March of club presidents and past governors in attendance, the newly elected 2018-2020 board followed by the current board. The thought for the evening was given by District 1 Director Maureen Mason.

After dinner Governor Vicki gave her address to the members and guests and reminded them she was governor for “2 more months”. Highlights of her speech included the assessment report from SIA giving SNR an A+ rating; the fact that SNR is the 2nd largest region in SIA; and a poem entitled “10 Little Soroptimists. Governor-Elect Lane presented her with a gift from the region of a plate and a donation to her Laurel Society membership that resulted in an upgrade to Envoy level for which she received the Envoy pin. Past Governor Jackie DiMartini, accompanied by past governors in attendance, presented her with the SWAT pin (Still Willing and Terrific).

Marie Mazzo, Installing Officer, and members of SI Citrus Heights, Governor-Elect Lane’s club, installed the 2018-2020 Board of Directors. Each were given a “pink boa” and all were declared duly elected to their respective offices.

Governor-Elect Lane recognized family and friends and even had a “skyped” message from son, Scott. She announced her theme for the biennium is “Girls with Dreams Become Women With Vision”. Lane’s acceptance speech spoke of the future of Sierra Nevada Region and Soroptimist; how the members of the first club in 1921 were the trailblazers and had the foresight of the greatness of Soroptimist and the determination it would become a recognized international organization.

The speaker and entertainment for the evening was Retired Lt. Colonel Sharlee Wyatt Smith who spoke of growing up in a traditional family where she was expected to be a wife and mother. She instead enlisted in the US Army as a Private First Class and retired 25 years later as a Lieutenant Colonel. She serves in many organizations and programs to ensure that veterans, especially women veterans, receive the benefits they deserve and need. “Charley” and husband Russ are ballroom dancers and instructors. They and 2 other couples demonstrated their expertise on the ballroom floor.

**Sunday, April 29, 2018
Celebrating Dreams Brunch**

Coordinator Barbara Smiley with assistance from Past Governor Janice Labadie, hosted The Celebration of Life service where SNR Soroptimist members who have died in the past year are memorialized.

Brunch began at 10 a.m. and District 4 Director Jerri Curradi gave a Thought for the Day entitled Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou.

Governor Vicki spoke of the participation in the region's choice of an international project, "Dress a Girl Around the World (DAG)" and slides were provided by the different clubs sharing their experiences of delivering the dresses to the many girls in different countries. She introduced Sharon Miranda, Northern California's ambassador for Hope 4Women's DAG serving 82 countries. She stated she felt a need to help others and this program fit that need. Governor Vicki announced that over 4000 dresses and \$1818 had been raised and delivered to countries such as S. Africa, India, and Cambodia by Soroptimist members as well as the DAG organization. Many packages of dresses were brought to the meeting and delivered to Sharon for distribution. She reported that some clubs are continuing the project and asked them to keep her apprised of their project.

Governor Vicki declared a recess from 11:20-11:35 a.m.

In SIA's Program Chair Susan Strople's absence, Governor Vicki introduced Coordinator Elaine Cassell for the Dream It, Be It program. Elaine announced that 20 clubs participated in a Dream It, Be It program, 3 clubs are in a planning stage and she is anticipating 10 more clubs will send reports.

SNR's Ruby Award Coordinator Ann Bryant announced Julie Debbs, sponsored by SI Citrus Heights, was the recipient of \$1000 for her work and dedication at the Sex Workers Outreach Project in Sacramento, California. Julie is a survivor of sex trafficking who mentors and assists women and girls who are escaping the sex trade. In 2009, she received Oprah Winfrey's Ambassador of Hope.

Coordinator Shirley Borracci presented the Youth Club Awards. Quincy High School, sponsored by SI Quincy, received \$500 for their "Thanksgiving feast" benefitting single moms and families; Inspire School of Art and Science, sponsored by SI Bidwell Rancho, received \$300 for their project of providing socks and underwear to a local shelter; and Burney High School, sponsored by SI Burney/Fall River, received \$200 for raising funds for the Houston, Texas hurricane victims. Honorable mention was given to Sierra High School, sponsored by SI Truckee Donner.

Fellowship Grant Committee member, Janet Galliani introduced the region's recipient for the Fellowship Grant, Alexis Holmes. Alexis received \$4000 for her doctoral thesis, "The Right to be a Parent". She asks the question, "When does a child have the right to choose as in the 14th amendment of the Constitution." Alexis currently works in a Crime Squad at the Sacramento division of the FBI and attends evening classes as a student at McGregor School of Law. At the end of her presentation she had served as a S-Club president in the Tahoe area.

After a brief recess, Live Your Dream Awards Coordinator Phyllis Hayashi announced the 2018 recipients assisted by SIA President-Elect Elizabeth. Each of the district award winners were invited to speak and then receive a check for \$3000. The winners included Hadiya Brown, nominated by SI South Placer; Denia Lopez, nominated by SI Truckee Donner; Elisa Raygoza, nominated by SI Chico; Britany Mehling, nominated by SI Auburn; and Jessica Price, nominated by SI Reno. The winner whose name and application will be submitted for competition for the SIA Live Your Dream Award was Maribel Macedo, nominated by SI Sutter Yuba. She was presented with a check for \$5000 and a laptop. Governor Vicki announced there was 100% club participation this year for this award.

This was followed by a panel discussion for former Live Your Dream awardees moderated by Eda S. Chen, SI Davis. The participants included Ana Chacon, Lisa Perryman, Rita Durgin, Peggy Kinsey and Dawn Estes-Hilton.

Registration Coordinator Kay Dunham reported the attendance as follows:

**Members: 279
Awardees: 10
Guests: 34
Total in attendance: 323**

Throughout the Conference at meal events there were table raffle winners at \$100 each for a total of 5 raffles. Also, interspaced were basket raffles and purse raffles.

Announcements.

SDR Coordinator Jackie Sillman invited members to the 2018 Soroptimist Development Retreat scheduled for July 7-8 at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

Governor-Elect Lane announced that Governor-Elect Sarah Carrasco will be serving as the 2019 Conference Coordinator.

Governor-Elect Lane reminded the conference body of the 45th Biennial SIA Convention being held in Yokohama, Japan July 30-August 2, 2018.

Social Media Coordinator Mary Meier announced the following video winners who each received a lavalier microphone:

1st place: SI Chico

2nd place: SI Bidwell Rancho

3rd place: SI Las Vegas Valley

4th place: SI Truckee Meadows

Coordinator Mary reported there were over 1244 video views.

Governor Vicki reported the “purse sales” brought in \$1850 and asked members to take “left over purses”.

Governor Vicki won the Laurel Society membership or upgrade drawing from the table raffles.

Nancy Becker won the 50/50 raffle which netted \$2830 and Nancy received \$1415. Nancy donated 50% of her winnings back to the region with Nancy and the board determining where the funds will be directed.

Governor Vicki announced the joint board meeting for the current board and newly elected board will be in Treasures Rooms A and B at 3 pm.

The 2018 annual meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. sine die and with members reciting the Soroptimist Pledge.

Jacque Brown, Secretary Pro-tem

Attachments:

Credentials Report 1 & 2

Attendance Report

Nominating Committee Report

Elections Report

Treasurer’s Report (2)

Conference Report

DIBI Report, Elaine Cassell

Blanche Edgar SOLT Report

Life Members Presentation

Membership Report + slide presentation: Jackie Sillman

**Human Trafficking Reports including flyers: Jeanie Ferguson, Sarah Carrasco,
and Joanne Tremmeling**

Delegates Briefing handout

flyer for SDR

Conference Evaluation Sheet

copy of the Conference Program