



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Soroptimist International of Elk Grove

P.O. Box 881, Elk Grove, CA 95759

"Improving the lives of women and children locally and throughout the world."

Special Interest Article:

Greetings From
The President



Leigh Nurre, President

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Greetings From The President

simplicity.

Idea #2: We want to grow our membership and to attract people from multiple generations. When we're talking with the younger set, we are advised to avoid using the term "retired" to describe what we do. If we were truly retired we wouldn't be working as hard as we are to raise funds and provide services to groups we support.

So please leave the term "retired" out of the dialogue **when you're speaking to younger women.** SIA suggests that if they ask what we do we say we're a community volunteer, a personal shopper (because we all buy things for other people), a community activist, or a property manager (for those with rental properties). The list of possibilities is endless. Giving an accurate impression about ourselves as energetic, young-at-heart, go-getters will go a long way in helping us attract future, younger members.

One last suggestion for membership development is to invite your donors to become members. You can tell merchants and vendors that we'll promote their businesses in a number of

ways that will bring them goodwill that far offsets their membership fee. **While you're gathering merchandise for our "Margarita-Carnitas Fundraiser" gift baskets – which we must start without delay** - please think about asking the businesses you call on to join. They could be a future SIEG patron - you will never know if you don't ask! Thank you and good luck!

Have a wonderful Easter,

Leigh Nurre
President,
Soroptimist International
of Elk Grove



Strauss Tea Table
Setting. Good job
Diane!



It's Official – Our New Name!

An idea that began at last year's Planning Retreat took longer than expected to come to pass, but we are now officially Soroptimist International of Elk Grove! The changed name makes it easier for people to know where we are, and gives us more of a sense of identity. Most clubs in the Sierra

Nevada Region are named by their geographic location, and while plenty of people in South Sacramento County are aware of the Cosumnes River, almost no one outside the immediate area has the faintest idea where the Rio Cosumnes club is from! So members, spread the word about our new name!

Program Meeting

**Program Meeting:
Friday, April 5th
7:30am
LaBou**

We are going to change the seating arrangement a little bit for our April 5 Program Meeting – less looking into the sunshine! We'll meet at La Bou, 8694 Elk Grove Boulevard, so stop in for a coffee, pastry or something tasty and enjoy our morning meeting. We begin promptly

at 7:30 a.m., so come early to get that bite to eat! Our guest speaker will be Denise Castello, Crime Prevention Specialist for the Elk Grove Police Department. See you there!

Acclaim for "Girl Rising"



Have you heard/seen the publicity about the film, "Girl Rising," showing at several theatres in region? The publicity states, "It tells the stories of nine extraordinary girls from nine countries, written by nine celebrated writers, and narrated by nine renowned actresses. 'Girl Rising' showcases the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world." Narrators include Anne Hathaway, Cate Blanchett, Salma Hayek, Meryl Streep and Alicia Keys. In the

words of viewers, "It's inspiring in its optimism; each story is a beacon of hope." Obtaining an education is a major focus of the film. Girls with eight years of education are four times less likely to marry as a child. That's an enormous issue in many areas of our world.

The showing in the Elk Grove/South Sacramento area was cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales (must be 100 sold to show

the film). One opportunity to view "Girl Rising" will be Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Natomas Marketplace Stadium 16 Theatres. It will also be shown on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday 6 Theatre at 101 F Street in Davis. The April 18 showing is, unfortunately, the night of our monthly business meeting, but a group of members from SI Sacramento South will be in attendance. Perhaps a group of SIEG members can attend the Davis showing. Ticket price at all theatres is \$10.

We're VERY Proud to Announce ...

At the March 21 business meeting, members discussed requests for funding received during the past year. There were both Board recommendations and some new suggestions. By a unanimous vote, the members present approved financial donations totaling \$5,850 to the following organizations or efforts:

- St. John's Shelter Program – helping homeless mothers and children with shelter, living skills and job training - \$500.
- Sacramento Children's Home – providing a place to live and thrive for children/teens exposed to abuse and neglect - \$250.
- Sacramento Crisis Nurseries – a safe place for children through age 5 whose families are in a crisis situation that may put the children at risk - \$500.
- Wellspring Women's Center - hospitality, nurturing, sustenance, and a place of respite for women and their children - \$500.
- Strauss Festival of Elk Grove – encouraging the love of music and dance at the annual production for the community - \$100.
- Elk Grove Food Bank Services – toner and supplies for printing at the facility that continues to help the community with food, clothing, and myriad support services - \$2,000
- Cosumnes River College Veterans Resource Center – printing of flyers/brochures for an awareness program - \$500.
- Rotary Foundation - to construct a home for a single mother, head of household in Elk Grove's sister city, Concepcion de Ataco in El Salvador - \$1,500.

The fundraising work of the past year, with Bunco parties and our holiday See's Candy Store and Boutique, allowed our club to support so many outstanding community organizations and endeavors. It's a great day to be a Soroptimist!!

We Have Winners!

The annual reviewing of applications is complete, and the two teens selected to receive our club's Violet Richardson Awards are Shelby Wood and Theresa Nguyen. Each girl will receive \$250, and \$125 will be donated to the site of their volunteer work.

The winner of this year's Women's Opportunity Award is Margaret Walubengo, a business student at the University of Phoenix. Margaret will receive a \$2,000 award. To add to the excitement, Margaret's application was forwarded for region-level judging, and she was selected for an award at the higher level, too! That award will be presented at the Region Conference on April 28 in Reno. Margaret, Shelby, and Theresa will receive their club award checks at a future evening business meeting, where they'll have a chance to meet with club members and tell us more about their activities and goals. Watch for the announcement and congratulations to all three of our winners!



CALENDAR SNAPSHOT:

Friday, April 5: Program Meeting, 7:30 a.m., LaBou

Sunday, April 7: Running of the Elk, 8:00 a.m., near Elk Grove Auto Mall

Monday, April 8: SIEG Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., home of Sandi Russell

Wednesday, April 10: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Happy Garden, Elk Grove

Saturday, April 13: Walk to Remember, 7:30 a.m. for Workers, Elk Grove Park

Thursday, April 18: Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Jesse Wright Suites

April 26 - 28: Region Conference, Atlantis Resort, Reno

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon-instead of enjoying the roses blooming outside our windows today.

Dale Carnegie

District V Meeting Notes

Leigh, Diane, Lorna and Peggy attended the District V Winter Meeting in Davis on March 9. The Greater Davis club provided great food, a comfortable site, and excellent opportunities to interact with women from other clubs during interactive workshops covering four main topics: Strategic Planning, Membership, Preparing for Presidents, and Treasurer Review. Everyone had a chance to attend two workshops, and the ideas, suggestions, questions and answers were very helpful. Governor Elect Jackie DeMartini gave an update on the redistricting process, which will very likely impact our District V makeup of clubs. Sierra Nevada Region has 60 clubs in 7 districts, some districts with a lot of clubs, and some with just a few. Geography is a factor, but there WILL be changes. Stay tuned!

Guest speaker for the day was “our own” Elisabet Medina, Lead Case Manager, Survivors of Human Trafficking Program, at Opening Doors in Sacramento. The “our own” designation is because when Elisabet graduated from Valley High School in 2006, she won the scholarship we donate through the Elk Grove Community Foundation! She previously visited our club for a program meeting when we first learned about Opening Doors and the work they do. And she gave a most excellent presentation in Davis!

After the breakfast food, speeches, workshops, lunch, prize drawing, and fun, the four attendees went for a lovely walk on the pathways of the UC Davis Arboretum along Putah Creek, and enjoyed the sunshine, all the trees and flowering plants, and peacefulness – a great way to finish off an enjoyable day!

Walk to Remember

Once again, our members are actively involved with the annual Walk to Remember, this year on Saturday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m., in Elk Grove Park. Betty Hall and her family do a wonderful job of organizing the memorial walk, attended by hundreds every year. As in years past, Outback Steakhouse will provide the lunch after the walk, and there will be informational and inspiring displays for everyone to view. Club members recently gathered at the home of Marie Wood to assemble the American flags given to every walker, each featuring a “Save the Date” card for next year. Not only does the walk honor Betty’s son Bryan, but also all our military, both past and present and raises scholarship funds as well. Thanks, Betty, for all your efforts on a huge project!



April Flowers and April Birthdays

Four members celebrate birthdays in April – Annajean Neill on the 12th, Lorna Buechler on the 14th, Jane Morse on the 25th, and Ramona Johanneson on the 29th. They truly are our “April Flowers,” and we wish each of them a lovely birthday. April is Celebrate Diversity Month, a favored topic of our Governor Janice Labadie, and a goal for all clubs. Now it’s also National Food Month, National Stress Awareness Month, and National Women’s Health Care Month. Hmmm....Pretty crafty, having those three particular things stressed all in the same month!

SOLT – Some Other Little Things

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

Pope John XXII

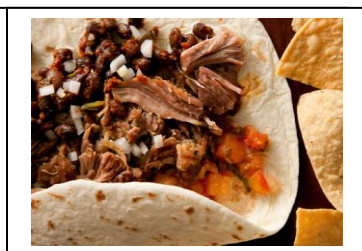
The SOLT section of each newsletter aims to share a little bit of knowledge about Soroptimist procedures, history, goals and other assorted stuff! In words borrowed from the SIA website, “Clubs are the muscle that moves our mission.” As you know, that mission is generally expressed as improving the lives of women and girls. Our local club strives to improve the self-esteem of women and girls (and boys, too) in several ways.

We provide crisis kits of clothing, toiletries, and an encouraging word to women victims of sexual assault transported to hospitals; we support foster youth with gifts, a holiday dinner, and encouragement; we give the Violet Richardson Award to girls actively volunteering in the community; our Women’s Opportunity Awards help women returning to school; the Soroptimist anti-trafficking flyers and teen dating violence

bookmarks placed in all Elk Grove District middle and high schools are to help teens (and younger) to avoid the horrors associated with making wrong decisions based on low self-esteem. So our club truly **does** put some effort, or “muscle” into our mission!

A Bunch for Lunch?

April 10 will see any and all interested members (and friends) gathering for lunch at Happy Garden on Elk Grove Blvd in Old Town Elk Grove. Meet at 11:30 a.m. and plan on Chinese food, lots of conversation and a good time! Not a business meeting, or any other kind of meeting – just for fun!



Coming Up - Margaritas, Carnitas & Fun!

Set aside June 21 for a new adventure for the club. We are partnering with the Elk Grove Lions on a Carnitas Night at the Pavilion in Elk Grove Park. There will be great food, fun beverages, music, an outstanding drawing (of course, since that’s one of the things we’re in charge of), and a great time to be had by all. More details as the time

draws nearer, but definitely plan to be there. What better way to kick off the first day of summer than with a high time at the salsa bar!!



**SI Rio Cosumnes
2012-2013 Officers**

President
Leigh Nurre

Vice President
Sandi Russell

Treasurer
Peggy Ursin

Asst. Treasurer
Kristine Smith

Recording Secretary
Diana Holcomb

Corresponding Secretary
Leslie Konopinski

Delegates
Lorna Buechler
Betty Hall

Immediate Past
President/Club Ambassador
Diane Hollingshead

Newsletter Editors
Betty Hall
Peggy Ursin

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***A good leader inspires
people to have confidence
in the leader, a great
leader inspires people to
have confidence in
themselves.***

Fleanor Roosevelt

Pictures from the Flag Brigade

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GOVERNOR: Janice Labadie

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