



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women

SI Rio Cosumnes  
P.O. Box 881, Elk Grove, CA 95759

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## Greetings From The President

Thank you for giving me the pleasure of serving as your president this year. I'm ready to experience the challenges and new dimensions this responsibility is sure to add to my life. I'm dedicated to doing my best as your president and know we'll do a great job together toward achievement of our Soro Optimist mission. I have faith that we'll do a great job together toward achievement of our Soro Optimist mission.

Before looking forward I'd like to recognize Betty Walters, Marie and Diane for their efforts in planning the installation dinner. I enjoy it when so many of our members are together at one time. It's like being at a family reunion. My thanks to the planning committee for a lovely evening.

I'd also like to give outgoing president Diane Hollingshead my sincere thanks for her hard work over the past two years. Diane is a strong and vocal advocate for the club. During her tenure she worked

tirelessly to get our name out in the community and to advance the club's interests. I'm very pleased she has accepted our invitation to be our first-ever Ambassador. Diane will be a valuable asset as she continues to help raise our profile through involvement in community activities.

For those who weren't able to participate, we had a successful annual retreat in June thanks to Betty Hall who facilitated our meeting. If you haven't seen Betty with her professional hat on, you're missing something impressive. She led us through a lengthy list of important agenda items in record-breaking time. The club will continue to reap the benefits of her contributions for the entire coming year. Thank you Betty!

At the end of the day when we'd finished our work, there was a surprising amount of time left over to relax. We agreed at the end of the stay that our expectations had been met and that we'd like to do it again next year. We

hope many more of you will be able to join in. I am honored to serve such a wonderful group of women. I look forward to seeing you in September and to launching plans for the 2012-2013 season. I believe it will be a fun and rewarding year. All the best,



**President  
Leigh Nurre**



Leigh being installed by Governor-Elect Jackie with assistance of District Director Kati



The new Board Members

## Installation of 2012-2013 Officers

A total of 36 members and guests enjoyed Italian fare and a fine time at The Old Spaghetti Factory for our June 21 Installation Dinner. We were fortunate to have our new District V Director, Kati Treichler, AND Sierra Nevada Region Governor-Elect, Jackie DeMartini, on hand to install the new club officers. There was a lot of laughter along with the serious task of reminding the officers of their duties and obligations to the membership. Though they are members of the West Sacramento and Loomis Basin clubs, respectively, Kati and Jackie mentioned something specific about each new SIRC officer, which made it personal and

more enjoyable. Outgoing President Diane Hollingshead gave an overview of the past year and thanked those who helped make so many things happen for our club and community. New President Leigh announced that the club focus will continue to be our local foster youth, implementing with additional action what we initiated and raised money for during the past year.

The Elk Grove Citizen ran both a photo and nice article about our event - many thanks to treasured member Mary Lewis! With best wishes for a

productive and enjoyable year, and with gratitude for agreeing to serve the membership, your 2012-2013 Board includes: President, Leigh Nurre; Vice President, Sandi Russell; Treasurer, Peggy Ursin; Assistant Treasurer, Kristine Smith; Recording Secretary, Diana Holcomb; Corresponding Secretary, Leslie Konopinski; and Delegates Lorna Buechler and Betty Hall. Thank you for giving them your support and do not think they can keep the club running by themselves – only if YOU get involved will we reach our goals!

## Great Gifts for Foster Youth Program

The Foster Youth Project got another boost this summer with an anonymous gift of 65 Target gift cards for \$5 each, designated for foster youth in our area. They were delivered to Kim Parker at the Elk Grove Unified School District Student Support and Health Services Department's Foster Youth Program. In addition, our Ambassador Diane Hollingshead presented the program nearly \$500 in grocery store gift cards to

support needs of emancipating foster youth setting up housekeeping for the first time, or for other needs that the program encounters. The grocery card donations came to us in part from the "Soroptimist in the City" event in January, and from donations via the Elk Grove Friends and Neighbors Club. That club has collected and

presented to SIRC for distribution, cash for gift cards, actual cards, and a huge amount of merchandise and toiletries for foster youth. Their generosity is truly appreciated and definitely makes a difference. See what happens when word gets out about our project?!?

## Summertime Birthdays

The summer months of July and August are for rest, relaxation, fun and....birthday cake! A very Happy Birthday to Betty Hall, Carole Crump, Liz Gentile and Leigh Nurre. Each of you is such an important part of our club, and we're better for your presence. Other notable women with summertime birthdays include Nancy Reagan, Amelia Earhart, Della Reese, Mother Teresa and Ginger Rogers. See, you're in great company!

## Club Retreat = Great Success

Nearly half the membership participated in our first-ever overnight Planning Retreat on June 24-25, and it was judged a great success. The only improvement would have been to see EVERY member there! The large house in Grass Valley had plenty of room for the group, and Betty Hall facilitated discussion and guided members in the decision-making process. Everyone enjoyed the breeze on the spacious covered deck. A deer even put in an appearance, but was deemed too young to join the club! A huge thank you to Betty for keeping the discussions on track and helping us reach consensus on a great number of issues.

Here are some of the key points the members agreed upon for the upcoming year: Keep the 7:30 a.m. time for Program Meetings; eliminate the Salute to Women event and select another avenue for presenting our awards; continue our strong affiliation with the Elk Grove Food Bank and Support Works; increase participation in Elk Grove events pertaining to women; discontinue our presence at the Harvest Festival; continue both the See's Christmas Boutique and providing crisis and trauma kits; work on a major fundraising event (type and time to be determined in the coming year); support international service through the Elk Grove Sister City efforts in Concepcion de Ataco in El Salvador; update our web site; and officially appoint Past President Diane as our Club Ambassador! A lot of items, to be sure, but certainly within the scope, skills and talent for service that our members bring to the club. Now it's up to YOU the member to get involved with a committee, and help make things happen.

As the retreat ended in a "wrap-up" session, the members all agreed that the opportunity to spend time together in a comfortable setting, while accomplishing a great deal of club work, made for an outstanding event. The vote was unanimous: Do it Again Next Year!

### CALENDAR SNAPSHOT:

Saturday, July 28 - ChildSpree, Kohl's on Bruceville Road

Wednesday, August 8 - The Lunch Bunch, Freebird World Burrito, 8235 Laguna Blvd. 11:30 a.m.

Monday, August 13 - Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Sandi Russell's Home

Friday, August 17 - Chamber Sock Hop, Lent Ranch

Thursday, August 30 - Fifth Thursday Party, 6:30 p.m., home of Marie Wood

Friday, September 7 - Program Meeting, 7:15 a.m., Elk Grove Library

Saturday, September 15 - District V Fall Meeting, Woodland



Cocktail Time



Work Session



Dinner

Morning Session



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*People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, curious eyes of a child - our own two eyes. All is a miracle.*

*Thich Nhat Hanh*

## Chamber Turns 60



The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce (which SIRC is a member) turns 60 this year. They are celebrating with a Sock Hop on August 17th, 6:00 pm. - 10:00 p.m. at Lent Ranch. We have been asked to help with the Silent Auction which benefits the Elk Grove Food Bank. Saturday, August 18th they are sponsoring a Custom Rod and Motorcycle show at Rotary Grove in Elk Grove Regional Park. Sounds like fun, please support our Chamber.

## Considering a Name Change

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*You may be one person in this world, but to one person you may mean the world.*

*Unknown*

At the June Retreat, members discussed the idea of making our club more identifiable both to prospective members, to our community, and within Soroptimist by changing our club name to Soroptimist International of Elk Grove. That was the name of the original club, chartered many years ago. The Rio Cosumnes club, to differentiate from the original club, was chartered in 1985. The original club disbanded, and we've been the only club between South Sacramento and Lodi ever since. At the direction of President Leigh, initial inquiries have begun as to the process of changing the club name. We have confirmed that SIA (Federation) rules allow it, but any change will certainly need to come before the membership for a vote. Changing the name obviously means notice of change for banking, state and federal tax, corporation, and other governmental agency identification. When a more complete picture of time and cost issues is clear, the matter will come before the membership. Stay tuned!

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## Did You Know?

Some years ago, our club supported a small beautification project at Cosumnes River College. The new College Center building's north entrance near the President's Office was very bare around the doorway, with no landscaping. We all know how Betty Hall likes for things to look "just right" (witness the beautiful display and layout of our Christmas store), and her office was just inside that door! Nearly twenty years later, the garden area remains an attractive focus as people use the side walkway and can see the metal sign explaining that the garden area is a gift of Soroptimist International of Rio Cosumnes!



## The Lunch Bunch



Possibly the best, and at least the biggest burrito around, Freebird World Burritos, 8235 Laguna Boulevard (in front of Sprouts Market). Meet us there at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 8th. You won't be sorry, and you sure won't go away hungry!

## ChildSpree – We're On It Again

Once again, SIRC is participating in the Elk Grove ChildSpree event on July 28. Our club's contribution to the day is a free backpack with school supplies for every child. Many Elk Grove service organizations and businesses put on a wonderful morning for students selected by the school district counseling staff. There's a pancake breakfast, haircuts, a variety of other gifts for students and families, a shopping spree in Kohl's department store for school clothes, and then our gift of the backpack and supplies.

Many thanks to Ramona Johanneson and Colleen Fernandez for once again spearheading the collection and storage of supplies. A backpack-stuffing party was held at Ramona's on July 18 (thanks for a wonderful appetizer buffet!), with seven club members setting up an assembly line for notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, folders, sharpeners, dental supplies, rulers, scissors, etc. Jane Morse did the final checking, then zipped up and added nearly 120 backpacks to the pile that eventually graced several pallets in Ramona's garage. It's but one more example of our Soroptimist action in our own community!

## SI Rio Cosumnes 2012-13 Officers

**President**  
Leigh Nurre

**Vice President**  
Sandi Russell

**Treasurer**  
Peggy Ursin

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Kristine Smith

**Recording Secretary**  
Diana Holcomb

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Leslie Konopinski

**Delegates**  
Lorna Buechler  
Betty Hall

**Ambassador**  
Diane Hollingshead

### Newsletter Editors

Betty Hall  
Peggy Ursin

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.sirc.home.comcast.net](http://www.sirc.home.comcast.net)

## SOLT - Some Other Little Things (you should know about)

The Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) Board of Directors just released the 2012-2014 Strategic Plan. You may be thinking "So what?" Here's what: Keeping (and increasing) the momentum of Soroptimist in our region is paramount if we are to stay effective. We need a focus in order to attract members, to get the word out about what Soroptimist is and does, and to inspire action in improving the lives of women and children. To that end, your Board of Directors (emphasis on the "your" part) has four Strategic Goals:

Program – SNR programs and initiatives will enable women and girls to achieve social and economic empowerment.

Membership – SNR will be a thriving organization of Clubs and Members committed to the mission.

Public Awareness – SNR will be known for its efforts to help women and children achieve social and economic empowerment.

Fundraising – SNR will raise sufficient funds to support the mission and objectives of Soroptimist International, SIA, SNR and Region Clubs.

Gee whiz, this looks a lot like what our own club wants to accomplish. Of course it does! And we have the resources, enthusiasm, and support of our Sierra Nevada Region to help our wants become realities. Remember the \$1,000 grant we received for foster youth? That support came from the Region - confirmation that we're ALL on the same page when it comes to Strategic Goals!

## Condolences

Our club extends sincere sympathy to Annajean Neill and family upon the death of her mother on July 20. As Annajean shared the ups and downs of her mother's decline, members saw in their own lives the care, frustration, worry, and flashes of humor that accompany such a situation. Share a hug with Annajean when you next see her.

SIERRA NEVADA REGION  
WWW.SOROPTIMISTSNR.ORG  
(USER NAME: SOROPTIMIST /  
PASSWORD: SYNERGY)  
GOVERNOR: Kay Whitaker

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SOROPTIMIST INT'L OF THE AMERICAS  
(FEDERATION)  
WWW.SOROPTIMIST.ORG  
PRESIDENT: Patricia Donohue

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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
WWW.SOROPTIMISTINTERNATIONAL.ORG  
(USER NAME: MEMBER /  
PASSWORD: CAMBRIDGE)  
PRESIDENT: Alice Wells

*A generous heart, kind  
speech, & a life of service &  
compassion are the things  
which renew humanity.*

*Buddha*