

PLAN AHEAD

The Soroptimist International of Palm Desert newsletter for June 2017

-Doris Churry, Editor



What makes a healthy Soroptimist Club?

Members who are willing

Without members there is no club. They need to:

- be able to engage wholeheartedly in service projects that meet the objectives of the organization and the community.
- have their voices heard on all matters.
- be made welcome to be part of the group.
- feel valued for their efforts.
- bring and offer all their talents and skills.
- offer a warm welcome to those who are interested in becoming a member.

Each member must remember that Soroptimist is a menu. You can choose what to be involved in.

Officers eager to serve

Women who have leadership skills and are willing to take responsibility for the administration of the club. They need to:

- respect their member's opinions.
- have great ideas to share in order to lead.
- honor their commitment to attend board meetings.
- keep a flow of information between the board, the committees and the members.
- work well with their committees.
- keep a positive attitude even when things get difficult.

Bylaws that are fair to all

They are the guiding document of rules of the club and are in place to help every member do their job well.

They are in place to show respect for every member regardless of their position or effort.
They are produced by a collaborative effort of all the members.
They allow every member to have a voice.

A budget that is reasonable

It is the guiding document for expenditures throughout the club year.
It is produced by a collaborative effort of all the members.
It reflects the reasonable ability of the club's fundraising efforts.
It reflects the member's priorities for contribution to service in the community.

A great meeting time and place

A time during the day or evening that every member had a voice in choosing.
A number of times during the month to meet that every member had a voice in choosing.
A place where all members and guests feel welcome.
Good lighting and access to A/V equipment.
Parking that is close and accommodates those who are impaired.
Good food that can accommodate any special diet.
Set up and clean up that is adequate to show the club at its best.

These principles seem easy to achieve but in some clubs they are not. Reading exit interviews by those members who have left Soroptimist indicates that many do not feel valued by other members. They have stated that only a few members "ran" the club and it did not matter what they thought. Many times there are comments that the board of directors decided everything and the members were never consulted. It takes the dedication of each of us members NOT to be one of those clubs. We need to be vigilant about how we treat members, especially newer members. We must never ridicule someone because of the questions they ask. We must encourage each member to do their best at each task they take on, no matter what it is. We must not question a member who has less time to spend on service or fundraising projects than we may have. If you have more time, offer to help them. We must encourage each member to be successful not only in her business or profession but also in her personal life. When a member has a challenge in her life we must all reach out to let her know we are thinking good thoughts for her and her family. A warm hello, a happy smile goes a long way when a member enters the meeting room.

I am so glad that our club, SI Palm Desert, is a club that is noisy and joyful before each club meeting. As President I have had to really work hard to get the members to come to order. But, that is a good thing. As I have told you, I have traveled to many clubs as a region board member and federation board member to other clubs that are so quiet before the meetings, it is uncomfortable. So, be noisy, be loud, and talk to each other before and after the meetings. Ask another member how they are doing. Get them to talk about what is important to

them. Make an effort to get to know them. Some clubs forget to say thank you, they forget to praise a member for their contribution to the efforts of the club.



A club is like a quilt. Each member is a patch in that quilt. Some are very colorful and loud, others are quieter and more neutral. It takes all colors to make a truly magnificent quilt. If they were all loud colors or all quiet colors it would not make a very pleasing quilt. So what color is your square?

-President Sherrie





June 1-2-3, 2017

GOLDEN WEST REGION SPRING CONFERENCE, Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort, Phoenix



June 7, 2017 @ noon

SIPD INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2017-2018

Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Building, Hwy 111, Palm Desert

\$25 per person, mandatory member attendance as per club bylaws



June 19, 2017, 6 pm

SIPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our FINAL board meeting is a joint meeting of old and new boards of directors

Home of President Sherrie, 77605 Delaware Place, Palm Desert



June 21, 2017 @ noon

SIPD BUSINESS MEETING

Desert Falls Country Club



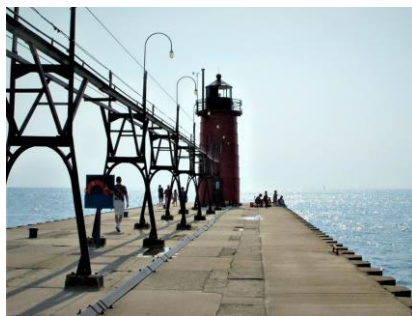
June 27, 2017, 9–10 am

SOROPTIMIST NEW CLUB CHARTER COMMITTEE

La Quinta Panera Bread patio, Hwy 111 in La Quinta

The Traveling Soroptimist

-Christine Duranceau



This month Richard and I moved from La Quinta to South Haven, Michigan. We did this by travelling through Saratoga, California, where we visited our very close friends from graduate school for a couple of days. We continued our trip following Hwy 80 and arrived in South Haven after a week of “moseying and toodling” across the U.S. We will be in South Haven until September but we are planning trips every month while we are here. Hope you are having a good summer!



Scenic Michigan

Christine and Richard are shown above in their friend's garden in Saratoga.

WELCOME ABOARD



Soroptimist MemberSHIP! SIPD IS A CLUB ON THE MOVE

More women - More fun - More service

-Doris Churry, Membership Director

What Happened to Our Membership Goals This Year?



We have welcomed with open arms our transfer members of SI La Quinta who wanted to get aboard our SIPD MEMBERSHIP:

Bev Montgomery, Mary Kay Berlier, Rose Mary Jameson, Christine Duranceau, Maggie Boriski

Regretfully,
successfully:



three of our transferees from SI La Quinta did not make the journey to SIPD

Diane Backovich (wishing you well as you face your health challenges)

Elaine Reynolds

Jackie Wilmeth

You are all always welcome if your plans will permit

We were all happy to welcome back:

Beth Irish



We received a year-end referral from Demi Antoinette Mazingo in SI San Jacinto-Hemet Valley – thank you!

We will be welcoming Sonja Martin aboard the SIPD Member**SHIP** at Installation. Hooray!



I did get a bunch of “CoffeeChats” under my belt but they did not result in new members.



Now I’ll be waiting for your new referrals in our upcoming year so we may offer them the “gift of Soroptimist!”



What Happened to Our Meeting Attendance Goals This Year?

Listen.

That is the sound of one hand clapping

We did, however, achieve one meeting with attendance at 25! Whoopee! Great job everyone!

Soroptimist International of the Americas
2017-2018
FOCUS ON NEW CLUB CHARTERING

SIPD has taken the challenge!



Find Your Joy!

Committee to Charter a NEW Soroptimist club:

Becky Goebel – Cathy Brown Wellins – Judy Corren – Barbara Grode
Liz Glowka – Lori Oliver – Marilyn Alt – Doris Churry, Charter Coordinator
AND YOU TOO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOP ON BOARD AT ANY POINT!

Our first Charter Committee planning meeting is set for Tuesday, June 27, 9-10 am, Panera Bread La Quinta

We will establish a timeline and develop a strategy including two Information Meetings

Presuming at least 12 interested women, Organizational Meetings will be scheduled

In a good world, we might be able to Host a Charter Party at District 2 Fall Meeting in October

NOW FORMING A NEW SOROPTIMIST CLUB
SI COACHELLA VALLEY SUNRISE



What Happened to Our “Conventioneering” Development?



Road Trip!

We are **off this week to Phoenix** once again with a goodly contingent of SIPD members but will be missing our PP Claudia who is recovering from back surgery. Get well soon and come back to us!

Twelve SIPD members are planning to attend: President Sherrie, President elect Becky, Jane Turner, Barbara Grode, Margaret Henderson, Doris Churry, Betsy Kreger, Liz Glowka, Marie Newton, Ella Manor, Lori Oliver and newbie Sonja Martin!

Road Trip!

FALL MEETING ATTENDANCE was a big success with our **ROAD TRIP! to Yucca Valley!** Thanks for the memories as we all went up the hill for a fun day in the high desert: President Sherrie, President elect Becky, Jane Turner, Barbara Grode, Marie Newton, Mulu Alem, Doris Churry, Betsy Kreger, Marilyn Alt, Janice Heronema, and Liz Glowka.



We Successfully Launched: “Club Visitations!” Road Trip!



Our club dusted off the concept of doing “club visitations” this year as we jumped in the car for our first Road Trip! to Soroptimist International of Riverside. We were welcomed and enjoyed



their speaker and had a fun jaunt over the hill to SIR and brought flowers to President Janet Payton. Club visitations have fallen by the wayside in most clubs, as it had in ours. But we found out that it was worth resurrecting! We have now made arrangements with SI San Jacinto-Hemet Valley to visit their club and have unanimously voted to attend their meeting on Thursday, September 28 at 5:30pm. Amazing turnout for our second visitation: Right now nine members are going on our Road Trip! to SISJHV. Barbara wanted to go but was

unable to do September. Any others? You are most welcome to join in the caravan through the pass and out into the broad pastures, fields and valley of the area serving our Soroptimists in SISJHV. Our speaker last month, Past Governor Fran Ballard, is from their club and member Demi Antoinette as well. Their President Tracey Sanchez is most welcoming and pleased with the idea that we will be visiting. We can take them some cookies and introduce ourselves and spread out among their members so we can get to know their members as much as possible—not just sit together. Incoming President Becky can say a few words of greeting and let’s get a great group picture! It will be a great day! It was this club that received the most new-member inquiries from the SIA website this year and it will be very interesting to see if they joined their club and how their membership has benefitted from these contacts.

This resurrected concept, newly designated by me as “**Pick A Club**” will be a focus at our GWR Membership Workshop in Phoenix. So we started with a good idea for us and hope to spread it broadly among the Golden West Region clubs. Our workshop will feature four different, in size and scope, Soroptimist clubs and they will be sharing their secrets of their success!



LORI'S WHIRLED

"THE" Soroptimist International of Palm Desert BLOG!

-Lori Oliver

THE WONDERFUL WOMEN OF SIPD

In the movie version of *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy is mildly astounded to discover that she could be back home in two seconds. It happens when Glinda drops the truth bomb: "You've always had the power to go back...now click your heels three times..." *Wait, wait, what?!* And, no, that's not Dorothy's reaction. She just goes along with it.

When you recollect that scene, do you think, "Geez, Glinda, what a witch! Way to bury the lead." Or do you agree with Glinda's premise, "She wouldn't have believed me. She had to learn it for herself." Why didn't Dorothy say something? Why does she just say thanks y'all, and go home? Why doesn't she say, "Glinda, you withheld valuable information from me. Information that would have better informed my choices. Dare I say it? You tricked me. You used me. Shame on you, Glinda."

Here is a young girl who survived a game of pitch and pummel with an apple tree, was kidnapped by flying monkeys, was imprisoned---with her life literally 'like sands through the hour glass'---not to mention, she took a meeting with a pyrotechnic monster (just the head) and killed two witches (okay, those were technically accidents). This is Dorothy the Badass. And what does she do? She just doesn't so much as grumble under her breath, "Ya might'a mentioned..."

We Soroptimists are in the business of helping women achieve their dreams. We share our hearts, our confidence, and our wisdom. These are the gifts we offer to the Dorothy's of our community. We spare them at least some of life's peril by informing them of their options. Good on us

But, have you ever noticed that as dear as we are to our girls, when it comes to each other we sometimes have a touch of the witch in us? We share...then withhold. We assist...then disappear. We come and go as we please, just like Glinda.

Why do you think that is? I'll tell you. It is because we are women. We are warriors and poets. We bite and we bark and we bless and we kiss. We can lend you a hand, lend you a buck, lend you advice and *lead* you into temptation.

This is why some of us find it hard to communicate honestly with other women. Women don't speak up. Women just go with it. We never know from one minute to the next who we are speaking to. *Are you a good witch or a bad witch?* If you were asked to come back with the witch's broomstick would you feel empowered, or put upon? And what's more important, will you reveal how you feel?

Our mission is to empower other women. Let's try to empower each other at the same time, by being forthright and honest with each other. Not in the witchy kind of way, but in the tin man's way, with heart. In the lion's way, with courage. In the scarecrow's way, with wisdom. Our power is wonderful woman power.



SIPD HONORED BY CHAMBER



Nominated

"Non-Profit of the Year!"



INDIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Featuring representatives from the Valley who have contributed to our culture and society over the years.



Margaret Henderson

Nominated unanimously by SIPD to represent us

CLUB PRIDE!

Our LYD Winner Graduating COD



Congratulations April Dunn



DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU ARE A SOROPTIMIST?

President elect Becky and Service Director Janice are shown here delivering women's monthly kits, of sanitary napkin and tampon supplies, to determine the need in the area and at Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. As a result, a \$100 monthly allocation is designated in our SIPD 2017-2018 Service Budget!

