



# PLAN AHEAD

Soroptimist International of Palm Desert Newsletter for September 2017

-Doris Churry, Editor

## TIME FOR THE SEASON TO BEGIN

Meetings to be at Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce!



# DO YOU HAVE "TRUE GRIT"?



Grit is defined as "perseverance and passion for long-term goals". Soroptimist International of Palm Desert members have "True Grit" to get involved in matters we are passionate about, staying the course until the goal is obtained. We have continued to SHINE (our assigned goal from Governor Penny for her Biennium):

- We ran with a new fundraiser: Soroptimist Night at the Races;
- Developed a new service project: "From Homeless to Home Sweet Home";
- Applied for grants when the coffers were low: Thank you Rancho Mirage Women's Club and Trilogy La Quinta Community Services Foundation;
- Launched a committee to Charter a new Soroptimist club: SI Coachella Valley Sunrise;
- Imagined "Personal Project Fundraisers" to raise funds to send members to Spring Conference and Fall Meetings;
- Continued to support Soroptimist House of Hope and then furthered our involvement with the residents;
- And, members of SIPD again stepped up to accept positions of service at Golden West Region level.

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The list does not stop there, but, I think you've gotten my point: WE do not stop there. As our June 2017 theme for spring conference said, "The Mission IS Possible!" Grow with us this year, TRUST ME, you don't want to miss this!

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-President Becky





**Wednesday, September 6** at NOON will be featuring our guest from the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, the first in our new year's Soroptimist Speaker's Series. Chris Dentice, Women's Program Manager, will be speaking about CVRM's NEW LIFE PROGRAM.

Our first meeting of the formal club new year will get started at our new location at the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce meeting room with a reserved, catered lunch! It's new. It should be fun! Please respond to President Becky's RSVP email.

MY STORY -- I went to high school in the early 70's and everyone was into playing hooky from school and having fun. I started ditching and going to parties. As I got older, I began hanging out with the wrong crowd and "my just having fun" turned into an addiction. In 1997, my mother passed away and I went completely downhill. I got into trouble and ended up in prison. It was then that I realized that I had made a complete mess of my life. I knew I never wanted to come back so it was time to do something to better myself. I took substance abuse classes and parenting classes while in prison. I got out in 1999 and moved to the desert with my children. I began painting house (a trade I had learned while incarcerated) and did so for 13 years. In those years, I took college courses and received my Associates and Bachelor's Degrees in Theology. 5 ½ years ago I was offered a case manager's job at CVRM's Women's Program. After two years I was promoted to Women's Program Manager. I have known I wanted to help women since going to prison and every day I am able to use something from my past to help a hurting woman. I want them to know, if I can do it, so can they!

-Chris Dentice



SIPD Board of Directors meeting, **Monday, September 18** at NOON, office of Cathy Brown Wellins, 44672 Monterey, Palm Desert.



SIPD Business meeting, **Wednesday, September 20** at NOON. Okay Ladies! Here again we will be responding to President Becky's RSVP email to reserve our catered lunch. Can we handle it? We are thinking this will be an improvement, but it does call for you to respond briefly so we can get the order in correctly. Let's make this happen smoothly! NEW LUNCHEON MEETING LOCATION IS: PALM DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON HWY 111, just beyond Cuistot Restaurant in their big parking lot.



**ROAD TRIP! Thursday**, late afternoon on **September 28**: 4 pm meetup time, to carpool to Soroptimist International of San Jacinto-Hemet Valley club for our planned visitation.

Our hosts are President Traci Sanchez and Linda Burke at their meeting at the Chamber of Commerce,

615 N San Jacinto, Hemet 92543; meeting 5:30 pm

Carpooling meets at Palm Desert COSTCO gas station area to depart at 4 pm.



## GWR SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING SUCCESS AWARD PROGRAM 2016-2017

- Application forms and instructions available on the GWR website: Celebrating Success Awards
- **GWR application deadline: September 30, 2017**
- Eligible projects are those started or completed during the 2016-2017 club year
- Multiple entries may be submitted in each Pillar category:  
fundraising / membership / program / public awareness
- Submit completed applications to:  
Liz Glowka, GWR Celebrating Success Awards Chair 2017-2018 [Lizg.gwr@gmail.com](mailto:Lizg.gwr@gmail.com)  
45545 Deerbrook Circle, La Quinta CA 92253 – 760-485-4124

# THE TRAVELLING SOROPTIMIST

-Christine Duranceau



Hope your summer is going well. We did not travel in the month of August and are still here in Michigan. We had a lovely family gathering for the twin granddaughters (their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday). All of the women and youngest granddaughter got together for a picture. We are in the midst of getting all packed to go to on our trip to Europe in September and October. I have enjoyed seeing a lot of Rose Mary on Facebook on her travels this summer. Will have more for you in September!





Looks like Betsy is having a great time picking blueberries near Mt. Hood!





"Picture perfect" Mt. Hood

Playing the famous course at Whistler!



# FINDING YOUR “Mrs. Parsons”

Want to honor a special woman in your life? We would all like to know, “Who was your Mrs. Parsons?” -Ed.

-President Becky

Oh my goodness, Aloise Weaver, was my Mrs. Parsons. To this day, I am the personification of my grandmother; she was and always will be my role model.



Natural graces and kindness were instilled in me – probably from birth. I was always taught how to lend a helping hand, or offer kind words, offer a meal when needed, invite neighbors to holidays if they were alone ... you get the idea. She was always prompting me to wear the right clothes, makeup, jewelry and shoes. In teaching me to cook and bake, her recipes always said, “Use the big white cup”, which my Mom and I finally measured. Aha! Her cup was 1 1/3 cups! No wonder our recipes never came out like hers!

She always taught by word and deed that we should stand by our family no matter what, loving and supporting them 100%.

To grow up BIG in a SMALL village was the best gift my family could have ever given me, and I am paying that forward in my own family. Join me! And do the same in yours! -So who was your Mrs. Parsons?



# AN INVESTOR'S GUIDE TO THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY

-Cathy Brown, President, CB Wealth Management



With the recent vote to legalize residential cannabis use in California, I have been fielding a lot of calls from investors interested in investing in this "budding" industry.

While 29 states have legalized cannabis for medical use and 8 states have legalized it for recreational use, it is still prohibited by the federal government. This makes it more than a bit challenging from an investment perspective.

There is no question that legal sales will grow significantly in the future. One source predicts that we'll see \$50 billion in annual legal sales in 2026. Up from \$6 billion currently for both recreational and

medical use. This future growth is appealing to investors looking to buy into a growth industry.

But, is it too early to invest? Currently, most of the publically traded marijuana stocks are penny stocks, many traded on the pink sheets. This means that the companies do not have to show any financial data to be listed and many will become worthless. Plus, our current United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently signaled that he would not shy away from enforcing marijuana prohibition on the national level, which creates a lot of uncertainty.

Until the prohibition is lifted at the federal level, I would avoid investing in the plant itself. 70% of money over the last couple of years has gone into two sectors -- biotechnology and real estate.

The 1<sup>st</sup> ever cannabis REIT, Innovative Industries Properties, which went public in December 2016, may be one investment to consider. Eventually investing in companies that grow and distribute the plant itself will provide potentially the highest returns, but politically right now, they appear too risky.

If you are interested in performing in a more "mainstream" way to play the growth of cannabis, you may want to consider ScottsMiracle-Gro Company (SMG), a company that recently invested \$500 million in companies that manufacture equipment for marijuana growers.

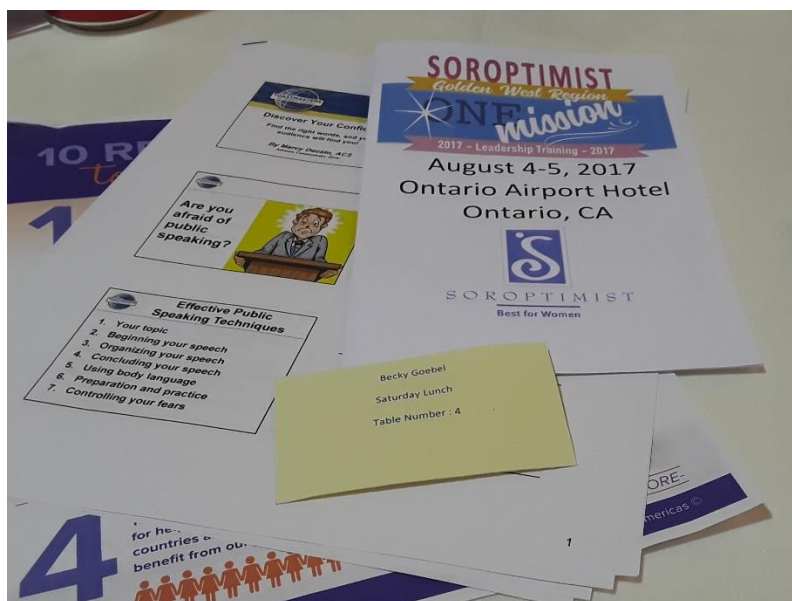
Money will be made in this sector by savvy investors, but it appears to be a little premature to go all in.

# GOVERNOR PENNY BABB SPEAKS ...

Speaking to the region members at Leadership Training Retreat – August 5, 2017

"Dear 'One Mission' Golden West Region Soroptimists. Welcome to the 2017 Leadership Training Retreat! Thank you for stepping forward and offering your time, talents, and experiences to the success of our Soroptimist organization. Whether you take on a formal leadership position with your club or our Golden West Region, or you take on a mentor position to help others become successful leaders, your commitment is extremely valuable and respected by all of us.

If you were able to attend 2017 spring conference and/or see the conference resources available on our GWR website, you'll know that you were encouraged to act on your will to make a difference in our communities. The "will to act" is extremely powerful, isn't it? We must keep ourselves in this state – the will to continue to think of ways to improve, and the will to take action to improve the status of women. We need to overcome any hesitation to act, we must delegate to and train others, we must conduct and participate in meaningful meetings, we must measure our progress in short time frames so we know what we have accomplished and what we must still do, we must research women who are doing what we want to do and create a mentor relationship with those women, we must be supportive of all women willing to lead, and we must give thanks to others and for our blessings.



My wish for you is to continue to explore and discover our amazing organization and to recognize the power that you have individually and that our clubs have collectively to improve –even save- lives! It's a powerful message and a powerful understanding. The theme of our retreat is 'One Mission'. Improving lives through access to education IS the only mission we need to truly accomplish great things!"





Seven of us, including Cathy Brown Wellins, enjoyed our August President's Retreat

## CHECK THIS OUT AND JOIN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Powered by Soroptimist, the LiveYourDream.org online community offers an alternative way to deliver our mission, strengthen and grow the Soroptimist brand, and increase resources to improve the lives of women and girls. Each volunteer decides their involvement level and how they'd like to engage or take action in a number of Soroptimist award-winning programs. Opportunities include the "Live Your Dream" Award promoting access to education; "Dream It; Be It" which empowers young women; and ending violence against women.

-Soroptimist International of the Americas

# Lori's WHiRLd

-Lori Oliver

## "THE" Soroptimist International of Palm Desert BLOG!

### **"BY THE YARD, IT'S HARD; BY THE INCH, IT'S A CINCH"**

Some famous guy's grandma drilled these words into him as he was growing up. When asked by an interviewer, "What words of wisdom were you given that have served you best?" T'wer these.

In Houston they are measuring life's inches in water. In the Coachella Valley we are measuring life in degrees of heat. In politics they are measured in votes. In finance, inches are measured in stock market points. And in Weight Watchers they measure inches in points and pounds, which translate back to inches. Measure, measure, measure. All day. Every day. Demographics. Percent of change. The odds. Google the phrase "4 out of 5 people" and you will get 473,000,000 results. Not to freak you out with numbers but if you Google "3 out of 5 people" there are 1/10<sup>th</sup> as many results. And while you might think "9 out of 10 people" would be the most common query, the results are one third.

There is an article with this headline: "Almost 50% of adults can't do basic math (that means half)." That last part in parentheses is in the headline. Not added by me. Yet we manage. How is this possible? How can we be so lame at math and so great at life and living? Here's how. We adapt to the degrees of heat, the inches of rain, the rise and fall of our net worth, and the expansion of our waistlines. We don't become a size 20 overnight. We do it by the inch. We don't get rich by windfalls. We get rich dollar by dollar. The temperature doesn't spike, it climbs to a peak and drops overnight. Sometimes not enough for relief, but in a few months we'll be feeling the cool again. And next summer, the heat will return to its current habit. And again, we'll adapt.

Hurricane Harvey is burying Texas in water, and that water will recede. And the land will dry out. And the people will build new homes. And it won't happen overnight, it will happen inch by inch. The people who are living in Harvey Hell aren't going to be up to their knees in Texas mud forever. They will live deep in the heart of Texas again soon. They need our help now, but some day we may need theirs. Peaks, dips, ebbs, flows, inch by inch it goes. --Next time life seems hard, ask yourself: Am I looking at life in yards or life in inches? If it makes life any easier for you, say, "Thank you famous guy's grandma!"

