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From the Heart of the Governor

Soroptimists are in the dream business. So what did you dream of doing this year? What will your dream be in the coming year? Walt Disney said, “If you can dream it, you can do it.” I hope you’ll join with me in dreaming BIG. I know that great things are happening throughout the Region and it’s exciting to be a part of it. What a great time to be a Soroptimist! Your efforts are helping women and girls live their dreams more than ever before. Participating in the Live Your Dream award program is one way you do this. Please help us achieve our goal of 100% club participation this year. Please reach out to NWR Chair Janet Schempf if you need help getting an application to consider.

During the District Meetings, club leaders and members had the opportunity to identify talents and skills they could join together to ensure the success of their clubs. These talents and skills were written on paper links which were then joined together to create the Chain of Success which was amazing! As I took time to read the many talents listed by members on those links, I realized just how much potential was gathered together during each of the meetings. This was exciting and energizing. I have no doubt that we can accomplish anything we dare to dream. The combined chains from all of the districts will be making a special appearance at Region Conference in April. Be sure to add your link if you didn’t get the chance.

With the traditional making of New Year’s resolutions just around the corner, I urge you to dream BIG. Your energy and enthusiasm will continue to lift our region higher. Remember, one of the greatest gifts you can give another is the ability to live their dream. Thank you for being a gift to so many as you share your time, talents and treasure. Your efforts truly make the world a better place one woman, one girl at a time. Happy holidays!

~Carol Hansen, Governor

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Soroptimist-Northwestern-Region/114263771950897

Email Contest
Don’t forget about the Region Email Contest. An email was sent to the club email addresses on October 1. We look forward to your participation!
Kudos Korner

The Kudos Korner is Open and waiting for you to share! This is for giving a “shout out” to a specific group/person.

It is a place to mention members who have let their Soroptimist spirit shine and have made a difference. Submit your Kudos to: nwr-sia@gmail.com. Be sure to include KUDOS in the subject line of the e-mail.

“By appreciation, we make excellence in others our own property.” ~Voltaire

Soroptimist Making A Difference In Their Community

Congratulations to Karen Odle, President of SI Bellevue-Metropolitan who received the “Legend of Nursing” award at the annual Excellence in Nursing awards ceremony sponsored by the March of Dimes. Karen was one of 10 Western Washington area nurses nominated by her peers for this award. The Legend of Nursing Award goes to “a retired RN whose career-long contributions and accomplishments have had an extraordinary influence with the profession of nursing.” Karen retired from her position as Assistant Administrator of Patient Care Services at University of Washington Medical Center in July 2014 after 40 years of service. She is currently serving as co-chair of Northwestern Region’s Women’s Health Committee.

~submitted by Peggy Whitford

Facebook Challenge

Currently the Region Facebook page has 267 Likes. We want to make that 1,000! And we challenge you to help make it happen! Be sure you Like us! https://www.facebook.com/pages/Soroptimist-Northwestern-Region/114263771950897. And encourage people you

We are giving Ourselves a Face-lift

Northwest Region is seeking talented individuals who are knowlegeable in the SIA mission, vision and program and wish to help support us in the following areas

Web Design: Prefer individuals with Wordpress experience

Graphic Design: Prefer individuals with experience in the Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator)

Presentations: Prefer individuals with experience with Microsoft Suite (Powerpoint, Word, Excel)

You have probably noticed that NW Region is making some bold moves, stepping up to the plate to create a more professional image that mirrors Soroptimist International while providing useful information to our NW Region.

This can not be done alone! WE NEED YOU!!

If you have professional experience in any of these areas, Please contact: nwr-sia@gmail.com
SI Centralia-Chehalis

It felt like a dream come true for the Centralia-Chehalis Soroptimist members. Plans they began clear back last January came to fruition. On Saturday, November 8, forty-one 6-8 grade girls gathered at Mossyrock school for a day filled with speakers talking about positive self-thinking, bullying and how to combat it, safe behavior on social media, and how to sign up for College Bound—a program geared to assist 7-8 graders apply for a program that could potentially pay their college tuition. In addition, information about Running Start at nearby Centralia College was given.

Also, Soroptimist member Vanessa Horn-ing, who is an Edward Jones agent, gave a short, breezy lesson on how to save money—accompanied by piggy banks donated by local Umpqua Bank filled with some starter money from the Club. Following lunch, the girls actively engaged in a craft project directed by SI member Charmaine Gill and her committee. It involved decorating a framed mirror with items such as, lace, bling, buttons, beads, etc. Then they worked up a sweat doing Zumba with SI member Kaaren Spanski-Dreffen. Throughout the day, SI member Mary Shahan and her able committee provided the girls with healthy snacks and lunch which received many positive comments. The girls went home with a Dare to Dream back pack, journal, a framed chalkboard, chalk, their craft project mirrors, a book, Confessions of a Former Bully, their piggy banks, and informational brochures.

Their feedback sheets indicated that they loved the day's message and activities, food, fun—and want to come again! Thanks to a Soroptimist grant, a gift from the Centralia Downtown Business Assn, the Umpqua Bank, the Mossyrock School District, and two private donations, the dream came true! All members of our club were involved in this great project. We’re already dreaming and planning our next Dare to Dream Day.

~submitted by Doris Wood

SI Oak Harbor

The Soroptimist Club of Oak Harbor, WA hosted a Chambers After Hours gathering on November 20th, 2014, celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the club's Upscale Resale Thrift Store. Christine Gibbs, Chamber Exec. Director, presented an award to SIOH President Marilee Paddock, Karla Freund and Cindy Beargeon, store managers.

~submitted by Sharleen Stroyan

Milestone Mentions

If your club is having an anniversary (multiple of 5 years) we’d like to know about it! And if you have a particular celebration activity scheduled, please tell us what you have planned. Let the region celebrate your milestone! Joy shared is expanded and multiplied. Send your Milestone Mentions to nwr-sia@gmail.com along with MILESTONE MENTIONS in the subject line of the e-mail.

Events

Is your club planning an event or activity? Provide us with the who, what, when, where and why and we’ll have it listed in The Soroptimist WOMAN. Be sure to include contact information. Send your events to nwr-sia@gmail.com with EVENTS in the subject line.

~submitted by Sharleen Stroyan

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”
~Hamilton Wright Mabie

“Reaching Higher”

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness.”
~Helen Keller
Dream Higher – Region Awards Fundraising Campaign

The new Region Awards Fundraising Campaign—Dream Higher—is off to a great start. There are two different levels of the Dream Higher Campaign, the Dream Higher Level for donations of $100 or more and the Reach Higher Level for donations of $50 to $99. Donors receive a recognition pin for their donation: A Balloon Pin at the Dream Higher Level and a Rhinestone Heart Pin at the Reach Higher Level.

This last month the following members donated to the campaign:

⭐ Delores Bridges ⭐ Marilyn Morrison

The Campaign will continue through the bi-ennium. Donations for either level can be made at any time by sending a check to Region Treasurer Carla Tucker at 23153 Buchanan Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. The appropriate pin will be mailed to you. Donations will also be accepted at Region Conference. Thanks again for your generosity!!!

~Carla Tucker, NWR Treasurer

Dear Members of District 3 and Northwestern Region,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent leadership changes in District 3.

On November 11, 2014, Tamra Smrekar, SI of Newport, resigned from her position as District 3 Director. This difficult decision was prompted by unforeseen family circumstances which require more of her time and focus. It was with understanding, thanks and appreciation that the NWR board accepted her resignation.

In accordance with Article IV Officers, Section 4.5 Vacancies, subsection c, of the NWR Bylaws: “Vacancies occurring in . . . district offices shall be filled by appointment of the Region board.” The board has made the following appointments to fill the District 3 leadership positions:

On November 13, 2014, the NWR board appointed District 3 Secretary Kathi Hanson, SI of Three Rivers, to fill the vacant position of District 3 Director.

On November 23, 2014, Jo Breneman, SI of Pasco-Kennewick, was appointed by the NWR Board to fill the vacant position of District 3 Secretary.

We thank Tamra for her service and Kathi and Jo for their acceptance of these new positions. Together, Kathi and Jo will continue to lift the members of District 3 up, and we look forward to their service as they share their time and talents with District 3 and Northwestern Region.

Sincerely,

Carol Hansen

Carol Hansen, NWR Governor 2014-16

“Trust is the emotional glue that binds followers and leaders together.”
~ Warren Bennis & Bert Nanus
Region and District Leadership
2014-2016

Governor Carol Hansen
(SI of Pasco-Kennewick)
Governor Elect Stephanie Smith
(SI of Oak Harbor)
Region Secretary Marti Crook
(SI of McMinnville)
Region Treasurer Carla Tucker
(SI of Burlington)
Dist 1 Director Nancy Buechner
(SI of Friday Harbor)
Dist 1 Sec Renee Recker
(SI of Oak Harbor)
Dist 2 Dir Dawn Christiansen Cuellar
(SI of Lake Oswego/West Linn)
Dist 2 Sec Theresa Heidt-Vanderschoot
(SI of McMinnville)
Dist 3 Dir Kathi Hanson
(SI of Three Rivers)
Dist 3 Sec Jo Breneman
(SI of Pasco-Kennewick)
Dist 4 Dir Melissa Domme
(SI of Helena)
Dist 4 Sec Cindy Zimmerman
(SI of Helena)

Due Date:
Submissions to The Soroptimist WOMAN are due by the first of the month. Publication is distributed by the 10th of the month.

District 3 Director Kathi Hanson

Kathi joined SI of Three Rivers (SI3R) in January 2007, serving in a variety of leadership roles within her club. She is a dedicated mentor for SI3R’s “Smart Girls” program at the local Boys and Girls Club, where she and other Soroptimists work one afternoon a week with girls in grades 4-6. The program is designed to build self-esteem and to help girls make healthy lifestyle decisions related to nutrition, relationships, education and social situations. Kathi is a charter member and continues as an active member of the Tri-Cities Soroptimists Against Trafficking (TCSAT) Committee, formed in January 2011 as a collaboration between SI3R, SI of Pasco Kennewick and the former SI of Mid-Columbia. Kathi lives in Richland, WA, with her husband Mark and has two grown sons. She has a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and is retired from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. In addition to her Soroptimist activities, she is a board member of Women Helping Women Tri-Cities and loves gardening and camping.

“I was inspired to join Soroptimist in 2007 when I became acquainted with a group of women with a compelling passion to ‘improve the lives of women and girls in our community.’ To this day, I continue to be inspired by these women and the countless others I have come to know through Soroptimist. I look forward to serving as your District 3 Director, and may ‘Our Love Lift Us Higher’ as we help women and girls improve their lives and attain their dreams.”

District 3 Secretary

Statement of Readiness to Serve District 3, NW Region Soroptimist International of the Americas

As District 3 Secretary, I am eager to support Director Kathi, working locally to enhance women’s and girls’ rights here and around the Region. I will execute my duties with high ethical standards and eagerness to engage in the spirit of our guiding principles.

I urge the clubs of District 3 to inform us of current and important topics in your Area and to exercise and participate in different projects in and outside of the District and Region to advance the Soroptimist mission.

Working together and communicating often with Director Kathi and the Region leadership will ensure success and continuity. As applicable, I will be a conduit to the Region leadership and strive to continue and foster goodwill among members and officers.

As we together promote and advance the social-economic status of women and girls through generous volunteer service and monetary gifts, I look forward to hearing a voice each member is inclined to report.

With gratitude and in service to others,
Jo Breneman, District 3 Secretary