



PLAN AHEAD

The March 2019 newsletter for Soroptimist International of Palm Desert

-Doris Churry, Editor

ZOOOOOOM! Boy did February whiz by fast. We managed to survive the Valentine's floods and now have beautiful vistas of snow topped mountains to enjoy. Here's a recap of all we did last month. Our club's speaker was our own Christine Duranceau, newly retired emergency room doctor. She gave lots of information when answering club members questions in her "Ask the Doc" talk. Thank you, Christine. We hope you will do this again next year.

We are happily welcoming, for the second year, our visiting Soroptimist from SI Carson City, Joan Andreas, and we will be inducting our newest member, Jacquie Gunning this month!

Club members signed up for committees: GWR Dream It*Be It, GWR Nominating, SIPD Service, Fundraising, Standing Rules and Nominating Committee. Lots of committee activity from now until June. And speaking of Service, thank you Janice for organizing



our “Socks for Seniors” visit to Valencia Palms Nursing Center in Indio. Nine club members came to brighten the day for these residents. I think we got lots of “good feelings” out of our visit, and the 72 pair of fuzzy socks were greatly appreciated.

Now it’s March and there are lots of club activities coming this month. Our Soroptimist Saturday of Service, March 2, will be at the Soroptimist House of Hope in Desert Hot Springs. We’ve labeled it “Healing through the Arts”. The morning will start with club members Rose Mary Jameson leading the House residents in jewelry making, then Becky Goebel having a “Paint Night” activity. Club members are supplying lunch for all.

Then Sunday, March 3rd is Mary Kay Berlier’s personal fundraising project, *Mardi Gras* dinner at her house. “*Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler*” as in “Let the Good Times Roll!” So far this club year, we’ve raised \$3,867 through these personal fundraisers. Great job, ladies! There may be one more coming—a Bunco Night later this club year.

Our most inspiring event is our Live Your Dream Awards dinner on Thursday, March 7. Thank you, Cathy, for being our designated chair for this event. We have 15 club members attending. And the special part is that individual club members are personally sponsoring the Soroptimist House of Hope residents to attend!!! Both LYD co-sponsor clubs, SI Palm Springs and SI Palm Desert are giving two LYD awards this year. Our valley clubs have each allocated \$3,000 for their awards and this is a new high in award recognition monies for both clubs. Well done everyone! All 4 winners attend COD and the college will have faculty members in attendance! We also have a Desert Sun reporter coming to write about this wonderful worthwhile award which we and Golden West Region and Soroptimist International of the Americas give out. This matches our SIA vision of improving the lives of women and girls through access to education leading to social and economic empowerment. This is what we are all about, ladies!



The Call for Spring Conference should be out around March 1. Look for it in your email. Conference is June 7-8 at Pala Casino in Temecula. Pre-conference on Thursday, June 6 is the “Summit on Education”. I hope that our club will have another great attendance for spring conference at Pala; it will be special to have good representation as we, for the first time, will have four of our members joining the Laurel Society and are delighted that Alice Wells has agreed to pin us at the ceremony!

Plan to go to Pala Ladies!

President Betsy



Saturday, March 2, 2019 @ 8:30 – 12:30pm – **“Soroptimist Saturday of Service!”**

A special day of Soroptimist service to visit, and enjoy being a supportive part of the jewelry making activity as well as painting fun and lunch, with the current residents of Soroptimist House of Hope!

Gathering at PD Costco parking lot @ 8:30am to carpool

Sunday, March 3, 2019 @ 3:00 – 6:00pm – **“Mardi Gras Party!”**

Get in the *Mardi Gras* spirit for an authentic “Nawlins” celebration and dinner cuisine experience by former New Orleans resident Mary Kay Berlier. RSVP 760-836-0013 - \$20 per person at the door.

45747 Verba Santa Drive, Palm Desert (South of El Paseo and East of Hwy 74)



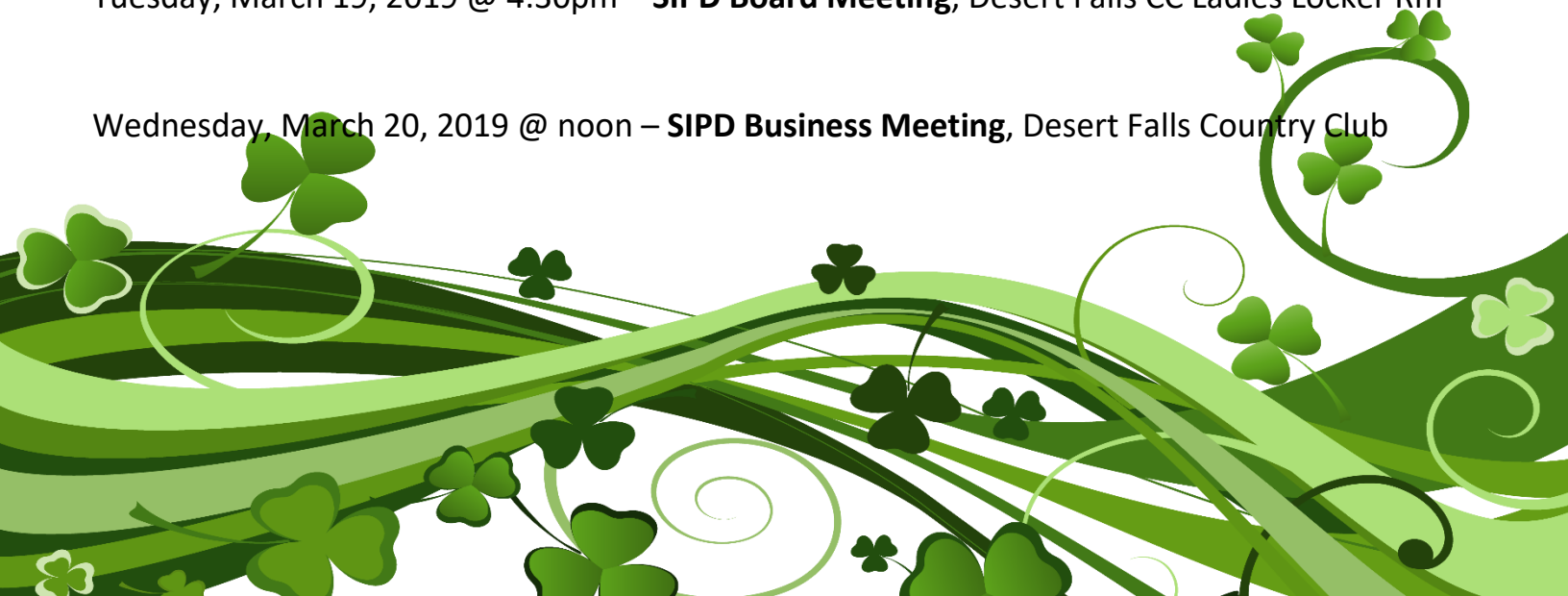
MARCH 6, 2019 – PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SOROPTIMIST MEETING TODAY!

Thursday, March 7, 2019 @ 5:30pm – **“Live Your Dream Awards Dinner”**

Bermuda Dunes Country Club, reservations deadline March 1 - \$35 prepay Treasurer or at the door

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 4:30pm – **SIPD Board Meeting**, Desert Falls CC Ladies Locker Rm

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 @ noon – **SIPD Business Meeting**, Desert Falls Country Club





GOLDEN WEST REGION DISTRICT TWO



Becky on right at Temecula Charter Party!

-Becky Goebel, District 2 Director

We have good SIPD news this month from two of our members! Congratulations to both Margaret Henderson and Karen Koch. We are proud of you both and thank you for your service to our Golden West Region. Past GWR Governor Margaret has accepted a position on the nominating committee for the region and our member Karen (recovering nicely from her surgery!) has accepted the region position of District Two committee member on the Dream It-Be It committee. Thank you ladies for stepping up to serve.

We also have a GWR opening in our district on the Membership Committee. If you are interested, please let me know!

SAVE THE DATE: June 6-8, 2019 for spring conference, again, at Pala Resort and Casino in Pala, just south of Temecula ... where the BIG news is that GWR is Chartering a new Soroptimist club, SI of Temecula Valley at conference. Wow! Along with our own 4 members joining Laurel Society in a pinning ceremony where Alice Wells has agreed to pin the members from our club. We have never joined Laurel Society as a group in the past, so this is a singular accomplishment and bright light on our club for Laurel Society support. It has, in part, been made possible by Lori Oliver's Kohn Family Grant administered by myself and I am really proud to be joining along with our three other members: President Betsy, Mary Kay Berlier and Doris Churry. Pretty exciting!

The "Call to Conference" will be in your email on March 1 approximately. Take the time to read it through and make your plans to be a part of this forward-thinking, exciting path to our

Soroptimist future together. The SIPD board of directors will be recommending what expenses can be covered by our club for our delegates and for our members who attend. Be a part of the event! Carpooling will be arranged and sharing hotel rooms as well. Always memorable – always informative – always meaningful – always FUN! Full time and partial attendance participation can be arranged. Check with me or President Betsy about sending in your registration, before you do it, so we are all signed up together as a club. Thanks!



SIPD MEMBERSHIP

We are having a flurry recently of membership interest in our club.

Isn't that nice to hear? We will see what else develops but for now, let's direct our attention to welcoming our newest member: Jacquie Gunning! At our March 20 business meeting please join me in welcoming Jacquie. She has already started off very well by indicating interest in serving on our FUNdraising Committee, sponsoring a House of Hope member to attend our Live Your Dream award dinner event and has mentioned several great ideas to me already. WELCOME to SIPD Jacquie!

OUR SOROPTIMIST FOCUS IS ON EDUCATION

Because educated women and girls are:

- Less vulnerable to sex traffickers * More likely to leave a domestic violence situation and not return
- Able to access healthcare * Less likely to live in poverty * Able to raise stronger, healthier families



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

-Soroptimist Headquarters, February 28, 2019

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

Dear Club Presidents and Treasurers,

Soroptimist International's (SI) Board of Directors agreed to increase their *per capita* dues payable no later than December 31, 2019. It has been 21 years since the last SI dues increase, during which time inflation has averaged 2.6% per year. This is equivalent to an approximate 55% cost of living increase, and during this time, membership has continued to decline worldwide including our own federation. Since 2011, successive SI Boards have exercised strict fiscal prudence and implemented severe cost cutting measures, including restructuring operations for maximum efficiency and overall cost savings. However, SI has been forced to utilize reserves to bridge the deficit just to keep essential services going, and concluded that this has proven unsustainable for the long term.

To sustain SI, and continue membership in SI, a per capita SI dues increase will be reflected in the SIA July 1, 2019 billing statement effective for the SIA 2019-2020 club year. The new *per capita* SI dues amount will be \$9.00. Thank you for your continuing to be an important part of the Soroptimist worldwide movement. We continue to look to SI for their advocacy work at the six United Nations centers they serve and for bringing the four federations together to achieve gender equality.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Di Geronimo

2018-2019 SIA President

1709 Spruce Street, Philadelphia PA 19103

