



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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



Leigh Nurre, President

The best new idea I picked up at the Soroptimist Development Training held July 27-28 in Reno was a technique for attracting new members. I want to share it with you since our top priority this year is membership recruitment. This may be a reminder for many of you, but it was news to me and hopefully it's a new idea to many of you as well.

Instead of inviting a friend or acquaintance to attend a meeting as their first introduction to SIRC, ask her instead to help us with a one- or two-hour project. It's easier for a newbie to say yes to a short service project than it is to sit through what may turn out to be an uncomfortable or boring 7:30 a.m. meeting.

Greetings From The President

A short project gives a person an opportunity to get to know SIRC members a few at a time, which is easy for even a shy individual. She'll quickly see that we're an **inclusive group**. Being a newcomer in a group of people who are all very good friends is scary. Since the vast majority of people join Soroptimist to make new friends, the fact that we're individually warm, welcoming and inclusive is an extremely important discovery for the newcomer. We can tell a prospective member we're comfortable to be around, but that claim isn't nearly as persuasive as experiencing it for herself. Also - by helping with a project, a prospective member gets to see a Soroptimist club in action. When the project is finished she'll have the feeling that she's done something good and invested her time wisely. These positive outcomes will help her say yes the second time we extend an invitation.

Asking for volunteers for short-term projects is also a key to acquiring younger members. Generation X'ers are born between 1965 and 1979 and appear not to join clubs easily. But if we ask them to volunteer for a couple of hours they will be favorably inclined to accept

our offer and in years to come may decide to join.

In short, establishing a connection and begin relationship building with people of any age is the key to membership recruitment. The probability for conversion to membership status grows with each additional contact. I'm asking all of you to try again with a woman who showed interest in Soroptimist in the past but who hasn't had any direct experience with a club project. After you invite her the first time, be sure to stay in contact and keep inviting her back. □

SIRC was invited by the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce to participate in a panel of high-profile community organizations on August 9, 2012. Speaking on the value of volunteering, Betty Hall represented our club to participants in 'Leadership Elk Grove', which develops future leaders who will be responsible for improving the local economic and business climate in Elk Grove. Betty addressed our Soroptimist mission, some of our projects and achievements, and the benefits of belonging.

Greetings From The President (continued)



I was the only outsider allowed into the room to observe the panel event and that was only because I said I was Betty's chauffeur. She was brilliant, and at the end had two participants approach her for more information about SIRC. Good going Betty! Thank you for taking your time to do a great job and position us for one or two new members! □

Our club had a presence at the first-ever Elk Grove Multi-Cultural Festival in the park on August 25, 2012. It was a lot of fun and also very successful. We got 13 names of ladies who want to receive our newsletter and emails. I'd give the festival a 9 on a scale of 1-10 because of the city's excellent planning and promotion. The festival was

very well-attended so people-watching was a lot of fun. The weather was great (although we froze in the morning for 2 hours). Betty Hall and I spent a marathon day in the effort to build diversity in our club, and Betty was fabulous at relationship building with those who stopped by to inquire. I sincerely appreciate Betty's attention to every detail that enabled us to maximize our presence at the festival. Thank you also to Cathleen, Karin and Bobbie who gave up a portion of their Saturday to help. □

The big story this year and next year at Region-level Soroptimists is redistricting. There are wide disparities in the

number of clubs in each district and Governor Janice wants to level the playing field. This will ultimately result in moving clubs from one district to another, which may or may not be acceptable to the clubs subjected to this relocation. Several of us are attending the district meeting in Woodland on September 15, 2012 to listen to discussions and be sure we have a voice. Members are welcome to join us so please let Peggy or me know if you'd like to attend. ■

Editor's Note: *In lieu of a series of separate articles, your editors are mixing up this last newsletter of summer (this time only!) with photos from events and quick snippets about our members, our friends, and our activities. If you have short items for inclusion in a future "This 'n That" section, be sure to notify Betty Hall or Peggy Ursin so we may include your news! So, in no particular order, and in a departure from the normal format. . .*

Calendar Snapshot:

Sept. 6	Spotlight Elk Grove		SES Hall
Sept. 7	Program Meeting	7:30 a.m.	Elk Grove Library
Sept. 12	Lunch Bunch	11:30 a.m.	Freebird World Burrito
Sept. 15	District V Meeting		Woodland
Sept. 16	Faye Bundesen's Birthday		
Sept. 20	Business Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Jesse Wright Suites
Sept. 22	Project RIDE Spaghetti Feed		
Sept. 26	Mary Lewis' Birthday		
Oct. 13	Food Bank "Harvest Hoe Down"		

"This 'n That" (It's been a busy summer!)

- We're excited to report that Katie Chappelle is winning her battle with cancer! She traveled to Italy with grandma Mary Ann this summer, and has re-enrolled for fall at Elk Grove High. Yay, Katie!
- Speaking of Mary Ann, congratulations to our charter member and husband Mike on their golden wedding anniversary!
- Thanks to organizing by Diane Hollingshead, a group of members held an assembly line for the Crisis Kits we give to WEAVE. Present were Leigh, Diane, Angie, Betty Walters, Marie and Genny. Thanks to Ramona and Leslie for contributions, as well as Old Navy and WalMart. Sixteen packs were created for victims of sexual assault.



- The July ChildSpree event was a great success! Diane Hollingshead and Diana Holcomb participated, assisted by Marie Wood and Colleen Fernandez. And thanks to our backpack storage/assembly diva Ramona Johanneson. Diana also assisted with the Lions Club Vision Van.



Speaking (or writing) of Diaña, it was great to see Dr. Holcomb and her staff in the Elk Grove Citizen photo of her Crystal View Optometry ribbon cutting with the Elk Grove Chamber. Thanks to our club members who attended the event.

... more "This 'n That"

Check out the photo of the 50's cuties at the Elk Grove Chamber's 60th Birthday Sock Hop at the Lent Ranch. The barn was awash in poodle skirts, white sox (males and females), and lots of cigarette packages rolled up in men's t-shirt sleeves. Our club handled the Silent Auction with all proceeds (over \$1,000) going to the Elk Grove Food Bank. Both the club and our own Ambassador Diane Hollingshead donated gift baskets to the auction. Thanks to Betty Hall, Genny Fulp, Kristine Smith and Peggy Ursin for getting in the spirit.



- Word came from former member Jaleen Clark who left us a few years ago in a job move to Denver. She's in Florida now, and we wish her all the best.
- You'll recall we helped support former member Gail Parrish's granddaughter and her "Cases for Cheer" project of pillowcases for cancer patients undergoing treatment. It was just great to read in the Citizen that Madison Zenker, now age 12, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Kohl's for her wonderful project. Congratulations, Madison, for a project that has grown to provide a couple of thousand pillow cases and lots of enthusiastic volunteers!
- WellSpring Women's Center had an open house on July 14. Leigh, Marie, Diane and Kristine attended in support of the good work that is done for women in the Oak Park area. WellSpring has received financial support from our club for many years.



... more "This 'n That"

- The annual Run 4 Independence at Elk Grove Park had enthusiastic support from several members. Check out their photo at the registration table. Whether you walked or ran, your dedication was appreciated. The event supports the Elk Grove Food Bank, and it always has a great turnout.



- Don't miss the first Program Meeting of the year on Friday, September 7. It's at the same time and place - Elk Grove Library at 7:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Pat Dewey from iCAN - Crime Victims Assistance Network Foundation. As usual, coffee, juice and nibbles will be served, and we hope to see you there!
- On the topic of meetings, mark your planner or calendar for our first Business Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20. Again, same time and place - 6:30 p.m. at the Jesse Wright Suites, 9575 E. Stockton Blvd. in Suite 100. Lots to talk about, so don't miss this important meeting!
- Thank you to Past President (now Ambassador) Diane: She provided the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce with 150 flyers on our Sees Candy Store and 150 Soroptimist postcards with our club contact info for the Chamber's Member to Member appreciation bags given to community members by Chamber Ambassadors. As Diane says, "Just another way of getting our name out there."
- Our newest member, Leticia Ruiz, is justifiably proud of her son Daniel. He and his Galt rock band, "The Somebodys" are making a name for themselves with an upcoming album. In an Elk Grove Citizen article, Daniel thanks the band members' parents for all their support. Now that's a young man who knows the right things to say!
- On the topic of fine young men, another thank you to Mike Jones of Courageous Connections and the work he does with foster youth in the Elk Grove School District. He picked up a truckload of donated items from SIRC members and the Elk Grove Friends & Neighbors Club members. We've got another eight boxes of donated supplies for foster youth ready for him! Mike reports that the school district is working to obtain off-campus space to assist with storage, distribution, and donation issues. Currently, the program is in space at Laguna Creek High School. This school year, our club members will have an opportunity to help Mike with sorting and arranging the quantities of materials he handles in support of our area's foster youth.

Remember when Rosario Dowling spoke at our Program Meeting about trafficking? She and her California Against Slavery coalition hosted a 5K Walk for Justice at Elk Grove Park on August 18. Many Southern California Soroptimist clubs support the program, but only two Northern California clubs are listed as supporters, and we're one of them! Holly Taylor and Peggy Ursin participated in the walk, and it was great to see Lane Parks and members of the Citrus Heights club providing snacks and beverages to the walkers.

"Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens." Khalil Gibran

SI Rio Cosumnes 2012-2013 Officers

President
Leigh Nurre

Vice President
Sandi Russell

Treasurer
Peggy Ursin

Asst. Treasurer
Kristine Smith

Recording Secretary
Diana Holcomb

Corresponding Secretary
Leslie Konopinski

Delegates
Lorna Buechler
Betty Hall

Newsletter Editors
Betty Hall
Peggy Ursin
Email:

siriocosumnes@soroptimist.net

... more "This 'n That"

- Five members attended the annual Sierra Nevada Region Soroptimist Development Retreat in Reno this summer. See the picture of Leigh, Leslie, Lorna, Kristine and Peggy. Not at the retreat, but stopping by on Saturday night was our very own Reno member, Theresa Thurman. She sends greetings to all her fellow club members, and reports that her job at the Reno VA Medical Center keeps her really busy. But she manages to find time to run half-marathons and recently had a brief chat with President Obama when he was in Reno for the nationwide VFW Convention. Stay in touch, Theresa!



Your club Board members remained hard at work over the summer, meeting monthly for planning and updates. Thank you, Sandi Russell, for opening your dining room for the year-round Board meetings!

Thanks for wading through such a long list of news items. Our club is an integral part of the community, and there's always something going on. Here's to a wonderful upcoming year, with lots of member involvement and enthusiasm! By the way, have you contacted President Leigh about which committee YOU are going to join?!? See you at the upcoming meetings.

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

SOROPTIMIST INT'L OF THE
AMERICAS (FEDERATION)
WWW.SOROPTIMIST.ORG
PRESIDENT: SHARON FISHER

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

*"The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot be
seen or even touched. They
must be felt with the heart."*

Helen Keller