

Best for Women!

October
2017



President's Message

Grateful... Inspired... Impressed...

These are the words that come to mind as I have been working with the board and the members of our club!

I had the privilege of joining an impressive group of Soroptimist sisters at La Serna high school to present to the Oasis club led by Professor Lavigne. The Oasis program is designed to help students who have been struggling in school to develop the skills needed to succeed in school and life. I was inspired by our group as I listened to each share a small part of their personal and professional journey with the high school juniors. This was truly an example of women at their best helping others to be their best. Grateful – Thank you to Maggie Bernal for organizing this and to the ladies that took sometime from their busy day to participate.

In addition, I want to thank our energetic fundraising director Petra Schmischke for leading a fun, fast-paced, productive fundraising meeting. Can't wait to see all the great photos! We are off to an amazing start and so encouraged to see how so many of you are stepping up to volunteer and get involved. Raising \$50,000 is no small task but I believe we can do it if we all do our part. *Ahoy Mates!*

President Lori Tiffany

Calendar of Events

October

10/3

Business Meeting

10/10

**Imagine! A Cure to
Homelessness In
Whittier**

10/14

**District 1 Fall Meeting
Glendora
8:30– 1:30 P.M.**

10/17

**Ships Ahoy– Let's
Fundraise!**

10/24

**Diabetes: Risks &
Prevention**

10/31

**"Instigating & Placating:
Kuwaiti Women Against
Disciplinary Violence"**

*All Tuesday meetings are
at the Doubletree by
Hilton in Uptown and
begin at noon*

Soroptimist Meetings & Events



Dr. Nina Smart



**Boys
&
Girls
Club
Gala**



**Anchors
Away,
Ladies!**



Soroptimist Spotlight!



Karen Bjorkquist joined SIW last year. She was recruited to our group after stopping by our table at the Shelter's Right Hand 5 K fundraiser and speaking to Mary Rawalt! Karen is a registered nurse for the recovery room at PIH. She has worked in the nursing field for 37 years, and still loves it and sees her role as assisting in the healing of patients and their loved ones during a vulnerable experience. She has been married for 26 years to her husband, Ted, and a Whittier resident for 34 years.

They are parents to a wonderful and talented daughter, Alyssa, who has her degree in Marine Biology and is embarking upon a 6 month internship in New England, having just completed a fellowship in Seward, Alaska at the Alaska Sea Center. Wow!

Karen is happy to be involved in the Soroptimist mission because of her passion for helping young women pursue their educational goals. Due to her own life experiences, she is committed to helping women to overcome obstacles and strive for advancement.



Karen is already very active with our group through Dream It Be It and work on the Ruth White Scholarship committee. We are fortunate to have connected with such a committed and passionate woman for part of our Soroptimist team.



Newly Installed Members



Dr. Irella Perez was installed during the month of September. Irella is the single mother of four children, ages nine to thirteen. She is the former superintendent of El Monte Union High School District and currently works with "Common Sense Media", a program which advocates and regulates media and legislation for children. She also coaches principals. Her community work includes holding the position of Commissioner for Cultural Arts for the City of Whittier and a member of the Whittier City School District Board. And in addition to all this, she is currently running for Whittier City Council, District 2. A busy woman, perfect for SIW!

We are pleased that Elizabeth Martinez brought Irella to our club. She is dedicated to causes which advance and empower women and excited about getting involved in our programs and our fundraising.

You can reach Irella at (562) 556-8268; iperez@whittiercity.net. Welcome, Irella!

Reminders!

Registration Table for October:

Kathy Mischo & Wendy Kreider

Board of Directors

2017-2018

President:

Lori Tiffany

President Elect:

Liz Apodaca

Immediate Past President:

Caren Grisham

Recording Secretary:

Yani Feliciano

Corresponding Secretary:

Juanita Velasco

Treasurer:

Diana Gonzalez

Assistant Treasurer:

Gina Miranda

Director SI/SIA Programs:

Wendy Kreider

Director SIW Programs:

Carolyn Theisen

Public Awareness:

Patty Kotze

Membership:

Lori Eshilian

Director of Fundraising:

Petra Schmisckhe

September Recap!

September started off with a dynamic and fact filled business meeting. **Susan West** reported that there is enough money budgeted to be sure that the president and president elect can attend conference in Japan in two years.

Teresa Molina reported that the audit team found all books to be reconciled and in order. Their recommendations include devising a written policy for check requests to reimburse members.

Wendy Krieder has established a new friendship link with Sierra Leone since her visit to South Africa. She also reported that the Live Your Dreams and Dream It Be It committees are up and running. Live Your Dreams chair **Mary Ann Pacheco** requested that we all start thinking of who we can inform of our available scholarships— an email link to the application can be requested from Mary Ann at mapacheco50@gmail.com. **Gina Miranda**, chair of Dream It Be It, confirmed that the program begins at Frontier High on September 28th, continuing for 6 weeks. There is still room to get involved if you have any Thursday lunch times free! **Maggie Bernal** reported for Carolyn Theisen, Director of SIW, that she is actively seeking participants for her committees: SART/S club/Ruth White Scholarship/ Lois Neece Awards/ Teen Girl Conference/ and Soroptimist Village.

President Lori presented an insightful PowerPoint on “What is SIA”. She covered the various divisions of Soroptimist, the vision and the mission. Lori closed with the thought “ We are stronger together than apart, stronger as a team”.

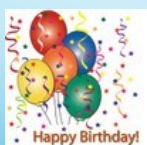
Our guest speakers did not disappoint! **Dr. Nina Smart** shared her story and highlighted her life’s mission of opposing human rights violations in a non-violent way. Her speaking engagements and books bring to light the shocking practice of FGM, female genital mutilation, practiced in many parts of the world, including the United States. Her mission is to break the silence that surrounds this horrific practice. More information is available via the organization's website at www.swfinternational.org.

Carol Reza, our speaker on September 12th, operates Bridge of Faith, a Whittier home for young women who have aged-out of the foster care system and have no resources to care for themselves and their children. Currently 12 women and 6 of their children live at the Home and are mentored by Carol. Carol and her Home are providing love and care and always need our support and awareness. They receive no government funding. Carol gave a compelling presentation on homelessness and the foster care system as a follow-up to the important information Ted Knoll reported concerning the growing number of 18-24 year old people who are homeless. In fact this age group is Whittier’s fastest growing homeless population. HOW is that even possible? Foster Care ends on a child’s 18th birthday, estimates are that 50% end up homeless.

And our final meeting of the month led by Fundraising Chair Petra reminded us to get on board for fun and fundraising. With attaining new sponsorships as our goal for October and November, you will want to take a look at the last page of the newsletter for a wonderful contest opportunity!

What a month of amazing business getting done, information shared and passions stirred!

Mark your calendar for Tuesdays at noon in October! You don’t want to miss out!



October Birthdays

10/13 Diana Gonzalez

Anniversaries!

October

Mary Ann Pacheco 3 years

Lorraine Quiros 7 years

Laura Verdugo 4 years



SIW SPONSORSHIP **CONTEST**



- Why?** We need new sponsorships to reach our goal of \$50,000 to keep our programs “afloat”
- When?** From now until November 30, 2017
- Whom do I ask?** Anybody who is **NOT** already a **SPONSOR**
- Why should they sponsor?** To help women and girls in a meaningful way
- What’s in it for me?** A “boatload” of prizes

New Sponsorships Only

>\$1,000.....Your event shirt

<\$1,000.....1 event ticket

\$2,500.....2 event tickets

\$5,000.....Room @ DoubleTree ☼ & 1 event ticket ⚓

\$10,000.....Room @ DoubleTree ☼ & 2 event tickets ⚓

Room @ Doubletree by Hilton Whittier is a king size room, double occupancy
For sponsorships of \$5,000, you can opt for a \$200 Nordstrom gift card instead
For sponsorships of \$10,000, you can opt for a \$250 Nordstrom gift card instead

Now let’s go “Full Steam Ahead”!

