



BUNNY TALES
FALL 2018

POB 3634 Thousand Oaks CA 91359
website: www.siconejo.org

SOROPTIMIST BOARD 2018-2019



President—Debbie Cutler

1st Vice President—Ramona Vanderwyck

Vice President Programs —Sherry Love

Treasurer—Dixie DiCeglie

Recording Secretary—Marcy Shewmon

Corresponding Secretary—Stephanie Knotts

Director Year 1—Nancy Nevitt

Director Year 2—Carole Blake

Dates To Remember

October 13—Fall Conference

October 16—Program Meeting

November 6—Business Meeting

November 20—Program Meeting

December 4— Business Meeting

Holiday Lunch—TBD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here and looking forward to planning our fundraisers for 2019. We welcome some new members to our club - Sally Sylvester, who transferred from the Santa Monica Club, Madi Nelson and Suzanne Walker. Great additions to our membership!!!

Some good news from our Region Board, at the International conference in Japan this past July, our Region won the 1st place award for "Outstanding Region" this is a huge award! 1st place out of 21 regions! Big congratulations to all the clubs who work so hard to promote our goals of women helping women! SIA is coming up on 100 year anniversary, so save the date for an anniversary party in San Francisco in Oct 2021!

On a bit of a sad note, we did have to say goodbye to one of our Soroptimisters - John Gore, husband of Sue Gore. John will be greatly missed, he helped at almost every event we had, always smiling and greeting us with great jokes, and our wonderful MC ! We all loved him and he will be missed! Our prayers are with you – Sue!

Soroptimist of Conejo—A Giving Group



to foster change

Jennifer Futvoye from “Kids & Families Together” next to Stephanie Knotts and Carrie McAuliffe from “Heart 2 Heart” next to President Debbie receive a donation of school supplies for their clients who are starting the school year.

“Kids and Families Together” work with Kinship families raising relatives where the parents are not able to meet all the needs. Many kinship families raising additional family members are in need of unanticipated resources.

“Heart 2 Heart” donates gently used items to foster and kinship families of Ventura County. Carrie has been to many of our meetings and both organizations truly appreciate our support.

Service Awards Banquet Our Favorite Event for Giving



**Service Chair, Carole Blake
introduces our many guests for
our signature evening of Giving!!**



**Conejo Free Clinic receives a
donation for their special
Mammogram program, unique
in that it offers life-saving
screening and services and
support for women in the
community**



**“Help Hope Live” Benefiting
April Winter-Bruno who became
paralyzed from an auto accident
in 2005. Gerry Winter received
the donation on behalf of his
daughter who will require full
time care costing \$38,000 a year.**

Sheryl Brownfield of Manna gratefully accepts a donation from SI Conejo - Manna provides food on a short term basis to families having difficulty in getting enough food to survive. Manna is expanding and this grant come in handy for their new larger facility.



Journey Out is represented by a repeat guest Cherise Charleswell. Journey Out assists with critical services for women to break free from the abuse and violence of sex trafficking - also ties in with our mission to support women and girls to rebuild their lives.



From the left: Sandi Naba, Camino Real Region Treasurer, Pres. Debbie Cutler; Ari Larson, our District I Director, and Carole Blake - Donation given to Soroptimist of the Americas programs fostering change in economic empowerment through many programs nationally



CIFORD (Community Initiatives for Rural Development) Kenya International Project by Margaret Ikiar received a grant from SI Conejo. Contributions can go a long way in Kenya Africa who help to educate and empower girls - funds can assist with essentials like Water Towers, Clay Stoves, and goats for milk



CIFORD Kenya is working in Meru County to empower women and girls in Meru County of Kenya East Africa. Traditionally, Young girls of age 11 to 15 years went through seclusion period where they underwent the female genital Mutilation to pass to adulthood. (Womanhood.) During the seclusion, the girls were trained on how to be good wives and mothers. They were also removed part of the clitoris for her to be obedient to the husband and also reduce the sexual desire. This operation could at times be very dangerous and even leave girls dead or infected with diseases.

The project activities are to educate the girls on the facts of Female genital mutilation against the myths so that they can make informed decisions. Apart from the FGM issues, girls are taught about issues affecting girl child today and some of these challenges are Sexuality and HIV/AIDS. Drug and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and early marriages. Self-realization and life skills.



Sharon Jones, District I Director, Inducts the 2018-2019 Board for Soroptimist International of The Conejo



Meet Our Newest Members

Suzanne and Sally



Suzanne Walker met Soroptimist through Sherry Love and Jazzercise. She relocated to California with her daughter and family after a career of 25 years of Customer Service Manager at Grainger, and working at an assisted living facility. Now residing in Newbury Park with a daughter and family. Suzanne enjoys volunteering at Many Mansions, member of T.O. Women's Club, and is active in her church.

Sally, our newest member, has been a member since 1978 joining first at LA West Club that subsequently merged with Santa Monica Club. A friend brought her in and she wanted to give back to the community. Sally is married for 68 years with Dwan and has a son Dwan David. She was with working with UCLA as Assistant Director to Finance and helped write Affirmative Action Policies for her employer. Unfortunately Santa Monica club disbanded but luckily for SIOC Sally is now with us.





A Tribute To A Very Special Soroptimister - Irish John Gore

On September 28th the Conejo Valley lost a community icon – ***Irish John Gore***

It would be hard to find any community organization that has not benefited by his involvement or a person whose life was not touched in some way by Irish John.

Soroptimist was one of those fortunate organizations to be blessed with Irish John's dedication, compassion, and generosity to help others.

Through the years Irish John received many honors, awards and recognitions from numerous organizations and groups, which included "Man of the Year" and the "American Hero Medal" in recognition of a lifetime of exemplary community service. For many years, he was a proud member of the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks and an outstanding leader in the community.

Irish John was the ultimate entertainer, and he was always ready to share a joke, a "true story" or one of his special Irish songs! He unselfishly gave of himself to support numerous causes and non-profit organizations. His devotion to the Conejo Valley community was an inspiration to all.

Irish John never met a stranger, he treated everyone with respect and he made everyone feel special! Thank you Irish John for the tremendous difference you have made during your time on earth. You leave a lasting legacy and memories of friendship that will be remembered by all who knew you!

To Our Dear Irish John

*"May the road rise to meet you, May the
wind be always at your back, May the
sun shine warm upon your face, The
rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of his hand."*

What Have The Members Been up to.....

Stephanie Knotts was inducted as a Perpetual (Life) member of the Military Order of the World War at the 2018 Red White and Blue Ball by the National Commander in Chief of MOWW.
Such an Honor!!!



Group Shot from Annual Planning Session Retreat hosted by President Debbie, good ideas, great time!!





Above Jacque, Sharon Jones (Camino Real Region Governor Elect) Ari Larson (District 1 Director) President Debbie and Carole enjoy an event called “Little Black Dress” fundraiser from SI Simi Valley. Below Marcy “Great Grandma” poses with another Great Grandchild and on the right Leslie and Jacque enjoy the last concert at the park for the summer.



Dr. Nina Smart - a local Soroptimist Member proudly represents Soroptimist International Interests at the United Nations

Camino Real Region United Nations Liaison

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Nina will be serving on our Region Leadership Team as our United Nations Liaison. She has already attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March of this year and is working closely with SI Director of Advocacy Beverly Bucur to prepare for upcoming UN experiences.



Over the course of the year Nina will be making presentations and sharing with members the important collaboration between Soroptimist and the United Nations. Working with Beverly, Nina will be collecting impact statistics from our club's international programs. This up-to-date information will be shared with the UN delegation to further strengthen our voice for equality and improved human rights around the world.

Nina will be contacting you soon to invite your participation. I am very excited about this collaboration and thank Dr. Nina Smart for her commitment to SIA.

Ana Marie LeNoue

Soroptimist International of the Americas

Camino Real Region Governor 2018-2020



Soroptimist Vision & Mission

VISION

Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

MISSION

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

CORE VALUES - Soroptimist International of the Americas is committed to:

Gender Equality: Women and girls live free from discrimination.

Empowerment: Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.

Education: Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.

Diversity & Fellowship: Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

Soroptimist Pledge

**I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist
And to the ideals for which it stands;**

The Sincerity of Friendship,

The Joy of Achievement,

The Dignity of Service,

The Integrity of Profession,

The Love of Country.

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.