

**Welcome to the Bunny Tales Newsletter for  
Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley  
First half of 2020**



**Soroptimist International of the Conejo  
Becomes Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley**

**See below: new banner with Greg Lockwood showing off our new name!**



# SI of Conejo Valley Starts the new year with a new Fund Raiser, Poker Run

ALL BIKES WELCOME

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE CONEJO presents...

## 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL POKER RUN Saturday, January 25, 2020

To benefit *\*STOP Human Trafficking & Sexual Slavery Awareness Event*

*If you see something, say something!*



Register online at <http://bit.ly/PokerRunJan25th> or onsite at location 1.

You can Scan QR Code with smartphone to register on line



9:00 a.m. Registration time  
at Simi Valley Harley-Davidson  
6190 Condor Dr., Moorpark, CA 93021



10:00 a.m. Kick Stands Up  
\$30 rider, \$10 passenger, \$5 extra poker hand  
Raffle tickets can be purchased at each location,  
winners announced at Stop 5 @2:00 p.m.

### ROUTE (85+ miles):

1. **Simi Valley Harley-Davidson** (great shopping)
2. **Sagebrush Cantina** (great breakfast stop)
3. **Rock Store** (relax enjoy)
4. **My Garage Ventura** (great shopping)
5. **Pirates Bar & Grill Restaurant** (lunch stop)



Special THANKS to our Sponsors!



For more poker run information contact: Ramona Evey at (805) 418-0382

\*Awareness event contact: Debbie Gohlke (805) 283-7111

**Below are some participants at our First Annual Poker Run.  
Not pictured, but were riders, Darryl and Ramona,  
Debbie and Don, all participated. It was a great event!**



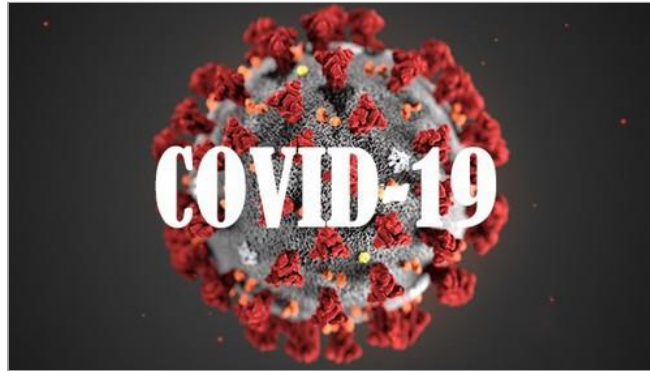
**March 7 2020 Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley participated with several clubs to bring awareness to Human Trafficking. President Ramona is Chairperson representing SI of Conejo Valley.**



**The Speaker Panel included Jimmy Lopez representing trafficking for children over the border; Tyesa Harvey who was sex trafficked and our last year Live Your Dream recipient; and Darryl Evey who discussed California laws in process to end trafficking.**



**Soon After the Stop Human Trafficking Event - the world was engulfed in a Pandemic the likes we have never experienced.**



**Live Your Dream Banquet - canceled!!  
Margarita Mix Off 2020- Canceled!!!  
Meetings for now are on Zoom platform  
The club still provides service to the community**



**Service Project for March - the Club donated many dresses for James Storehouse - an organization that supports Foster Children and families. James Storehouse was preparing for the High School Proms in March and was to host a Beautiful You Event for high school girls to shop for dresses. Unfortunately, all were canceled due to COVID-19, but the dresses were appreciated and will be used at some time.**

**April Service Project was to support local operations that help families and seniors.**



**Manna Food Bank of Conejo Valley (above left) received a donation from SI of Conejo Valley for \$250.00 to help support families with food needs.**

**With the Covid-19 there was an increase of 38% of families requesting assistance. Accepting the donation is the Manna Executive Director Jennifer Schwabauer.**

**Above right: Senior Concerns director accepts a donation from the club for \$250.00 to support Meals on Wheels, another organization in need from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Seniors have to shelter in place increasing the need.**

## **June Service Project gets delivered in July!**

Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley (SI of Conejo Valley) was recently contacted by Frank Bellinghiere, major volunteer for several organizations over the years, who has helped to raise awareness and funds for many. He wanted to alert us about a critical need in the Conejo Valley community to help feed the homeless population.

On behalf of Lutheran Social Services Southern California (LSSSC), he was reaching out to the various non-profit service clubs & organizations in the Conejo Valley, hoping they would be able to provide any level of financial assistance during this pandemic crisis, so that LSSSC could continue to provide food to the homeless and those in need.

LSSSC-Ventura County serves the homeless through their Thousand Oaks location at the Community Conscience Human Services Center. They are currently experiencing a huge demand for meals. It takes approximately \$25 per day to provide 3 meals to a person.

SI of Conejo Valley *answered the call* and decided to make our June Service Project a cash donation to LSSSC for their Food and Meal Program that serves the Conejo Valley community. With the generous donations from our individual members along with a \$150 club donation, we were able to contribute a total donation of \$650 to LSSSC. Several members were in attendance (using proper social distancing) to present the check to Nathan Hickling, Volunteer Coordinator & Case Manager, and Dichele Harris, Area Director, on July 8<sup>th</sup>.





**Our Live Your Dream Banquet was canceled.  
We moved forward with giving cash grants  
to our three recipients this year:  
Amber Fairclough, Rachel Lopez and Heather Lowe.**

The flyer has a light purple background with a subtle geometric pattern. It contains several text boxes and logos. At the top left, a white box with a thin black border contains the text: "Soroptimist International of The Conejo cordially invites you to attend our Live Your Dream Awards Presentation March 19, 2019 5:30 PM - Social 6:00 PM - Dinner &amp; Program". To the right of this is a smaller version of the "Live Your Dream" logo. In the center, a white box with a thin black border contains the text: "To celebrate &amp; honor 2019 Recipient of Live Your Dream Award Tyesa Harvey". At the bottom left is the Soroptimist International logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' inside a square, with the text "SOROPTIMIST Best for Women® SI of The Conejo" below it. At the bottom right, a white box with a thin black border contains the text: "Los Robles Greens Golf Course 299 S. Moorpark Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91361 \$20 per guest RSVP by March 17, 2019 to Debbie Cutler at Debbie@powermaginc.com 805.218.7066". There are also several blue butterfly illustrations scattered across the flyer.



**Our 2020 “Live Your Dream Award” recipient, Amber Fairclough, grew up in a single parent home which consisted of herself, her three sisters and her mother – all girls. Amber’s mother was unable to complete college with financial challenges of finding herself alone with four daughters. As a family, they had to overcome many difficulties and financial obstacles many of which were insurmountable. However, these obstacles taught Amber to persevere, to work hard and never, never give up. Amber’s mother homeschooled her and her sisters and it was during that time where Amber’s love for education and learning began. As a child she began to dream...and she dreamt of being a teacher. Amber would line up her dolls, barbies, stuffed animals and even younger sisters in a classroom setting and teach all sorts of things. This carried on into the jobs and roles she would apply for that allowed her to use her love for teaching in the workplace.**

**In her teen years, Amber began to work full time and for an extended time, put her education on the back burner in order to help her family financially. Working full time for the next 10 years, Amber couldn’t commit to pursuing her education. She began to also help provide for her sister and nieces after their father left. Finally, in her late 20’s she made the firm decision to go to college. Though no one in her family was able to complete their college education, Amber is devoted to breaking that mold and doing so!**

**Pursing her degree in Early Childhood Education, Amber has a desire to see the educational system embrace more artistic, active and sensory, hands on learning in every age and subject. She is also considering a double major in business.**

**Despite the obstacles of herself being a single mother with a young daughter, Amber is focused on achieving her educational goals as well as personal. She hopes to instill and exemplify to her daughter that through hard work and perseverance, no age, gender, financial status or obstacle can hinder one from moving forward in pursuit of their dreams. Amber also hopes to continue and complete her education while her daughter is young to be able to provide the same values but with more opportunities that education will allow an open door to achieve.**



Runner-Up Rachel Lopez a single mother of 2 children with a special situation.

“I have a Deaf daughter and a hearing son. Since my daughter is profoundly Deaf, she doesn't verbally speak, and when she was young, I struggled with learning American Sign Language.

I made a choice to return to school and major in Deaf Studies at California State University Northridge. Since then, I fell in love with Deaf culture, the Deaf community and American Sign Language. I feel a desire to give back to the Deaf community who needs me.

I would love to pursue my educational goals and work with Deaf children in an educational setting of Speech Pathology.

I have since completed my AA from Moorpark College, and my BA in Deaf Studies from CSUN in January 2020. I am now focusing on my Masters in the Speech Language Pathology program at Northridge.”



**Runner-Up Heather Lowe is a divorced mother of a 4-year old son. She is currently attending California Lutheran University with the goal of obtaining a degree in Psychology with an emphasis on Clinical and Behavior, with the hopes of helping others.**

**“As a single mother that came from an abusive background, I am eager to make sure my son grows up with an educated mother who is dedicated to help people that have been abused, along with making sure he has a safe and open home.**

**Education has become an important role in my life, and the cash award has only put me one step closer to obtaining my goal.”**

## **Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley wins recognition from Camino Real Region.**

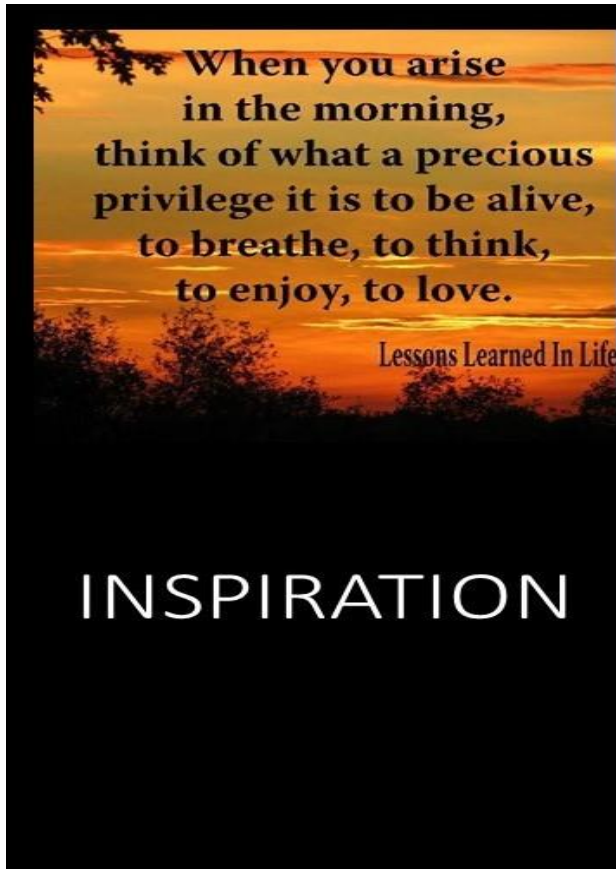


### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Certificate for Live your Dream for increasing our award distribution by \$1500 and the number of awards given by 2.
- 2020 Celebrating Success Award – Runner up under the category of Fundraising for the Margarita Mix Off.
- 2020 Governors Club Award – 1<sup>st</sup> place for providing an engaging and meaningful, mission-based experience through Public Awareness.

## **Wrapping up the fiscal year - the Installation of Officers was an On-Line Zoom Experience.**

**President Ramona leads the Installation with an Inspirational Message and the new Officers are installed for the 2020-2021 Year.**



**I would like to thank and congratulate the following 2020-2021 officers:**

*(The officers to be installed are then called forward by name and office, one at a time, to take a designated position facing the audience)*

## **INCOMING OFFICERS AND ELECTED POSITIONS 2020-2021**

**President, Ramona Evey**

**Vice President, Karen O'Mullan**

**Recording Secretary, Cheryl Klepper**

**Assistant Recording Secretary, Carol Blake**

**Correspondence Secretary, Suzanne Walker**

**Assistant Correspondence Secretary, Sue Gore**

**Treasurer, Dixie DiCeglie**

**Director –2 year, Sue Gore**

**Director –1 year, Debbie Cutler**

**Delegate, Nancy Nevitt**

**Delegate, Carole Blake**



### **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.**