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Presidents Message as we close 2020 and embark on 2021  
by Ramona Evey

What a whirlwind of a year! How do I recap "quarantine", "restrictions" and all the "do and don'ts" that were put in place this year? I must say it was a very unexpected turn of events for my second year as president. I almost feel cheated, a position I waited so long to have, my ideas and visions were crushed. I must say though our members got closer even though we were miles apart. Excited to join the club in Summer of 2018, I expected to slowly raise my hand for volunteer positions. Little did I know, thee who voices opinions, makes recommendations, or suggests, quickly fills the role of presidency.

I have to admit, my desire to become president of the club happened years ago when I shadowed and supported my sister on many of her Soroptimist activities. I think I was roped in when I attended SI Oxnard's Bingo Night. That's where I met so many fabulous women, I thought to my self I want to do that! Unfortunately, work and school held me back from joining, oh how I wanted to be president some day! When I joined, members must have seen the desire and voted me in as president shortly after joining. Was I ready? Could I do it? YOU BET!!! I loved my first year of learning and was excited about my second.

Year two rolls around, I picked a great theme for my ambitious thoughts "Together Everyone Achieves More"! I was super excited not only to find out that that was my sisters' theme at one point but I was going to make new friends, learn about our community needs and execute!!!

COVID19 did not stop me and did not stop our members, we had a great year despite our setbacks! Our First challenge hit us on March 5th, we were restricted from being together in person. How would this work? and how will I keep the members interested without hugs, our stories, dinner conversations and compliments? I took a deep breath and discovered what makes us a strong but a mighty team is our passion to be friends, to care about one another and the love of

our community. We all had this in common and it's what held us together.

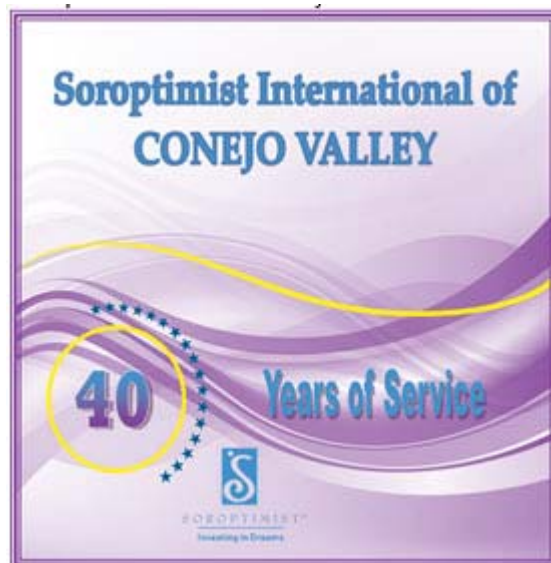
Our second challenge, fundraising! Our most popular event in the Conejo Valley, the Margarita Mix Off, a networking event bringing together us, our community and businesses. It has been an event on everyone's calendar for years! CANCELLED for 2020! Our hearts were broken, not only is it a lot of hard work, we lost our connection with the community and our sponsors. It was difficult to sit back and watch the businesses and sponsors struggle through hard times, many went out of business and many asked for our support. As a team, we decided to shift and open our hearts to the fact that this year young girls and women are important and we will support them but most important is to support what is happening now in our community.

We quickly decided to put events on the back burner and tried to predict what was going to happen to our community, us and who we were helping. It became clear food and remote services surface to the top. We identified a few organizations we wanted to help out this year Community Conscience Mardi Gras Ball, James Storehouse Beautiful You shopping event - dress donations, Conejo Senior Concerns and Manna - gift cards for meals, CASA we wrote thank you cards to their volunteers and Interface - Heart House -donated 20 tote bag filled with items - toiletries, gift cards, make up, clothes and beauty supplies. They were grateful.

We had a GREAT year, despite COVID19 shenanigans!!! We have a great club!

Thank you for a great year!

Ramona Evey, President SIOCV



Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley is celebrating 40 Years of Service to the Community. Our founding Member Marcy Shewmon details some of the early on memories.

#### **SIOCV History by Marcy Shewmon**

When I moved to Thousand Oaks, there was no Soroptimist club in my area. I had been in the Santa Clarita club for about 4 years prior and really missed having a club locally. Myself and 15 others decided to start a club in the Conejo Valley. We chartered in 1982. Dixie Vollmer was one of our first members of the 15 and owned The Plug Nickel in Westlake Village and offered her restaurant

to host our meetings. We met in the library room for several years. Our first President Diane Upton, lasted about 7 months and resigned due to work restrictions. I took over the remainder of that year and served the next year as President. Over the 40 years I have been in this club, I have served as President seven times, Recording Secretary for several years and a Director.

We started out with smaller fund raising projects, but always had enough to give to our local charities. At one point we were up to about 30 members, which I believe is the most we have had. Over the years, our club has grown and declined in membership, but even our past members stay in touch and support the club. We developed quite a close knit group and the relationships that were developed have remained to this day.

When I reached my 25<sup>th</sup> year with the club, the members surprised me with a membership to the Laurel Society. I was quite surprised and taken back by their generosity.

My daughter, Debbie Cutler, joined the club and became our Treasurer and remained in that position for several years, She has also served as President for 3 years. I have always been very proud of her contribution to the club and her dedication to serving our community.



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**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, WE LOVE LENDING A HELPING HAND!!!**

As mentioned in the President's message, we continue to provide service to the local community with projects to support to a variety of organizations. In



October we wrote Thank You cards to the volunteers of CASA an organization that supports Foster Care Children and Foster Families. The cards were very appreciated by the staff especially with the Covid Restrictions. Below on the left are baskets of food items for James Store House the club provided in November - In December we compiled large Duffle Bags and items for an organization called Heart House a rescue home for Sex Trafficked victims. The Cutlers generously donated the bags and bath towels - the members donated other items: clothing, hygiene items of all kinds, and SI Conejo Valley donated gift cards to Fast Food and Transportation services. Also in December our Service Chair Leslie hand filled out 50+ Christmas Cards for the organization For the Troops

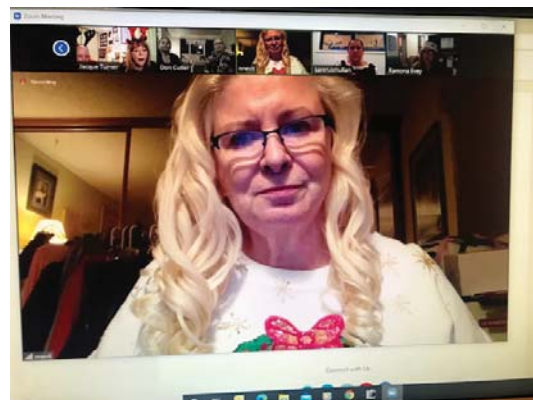


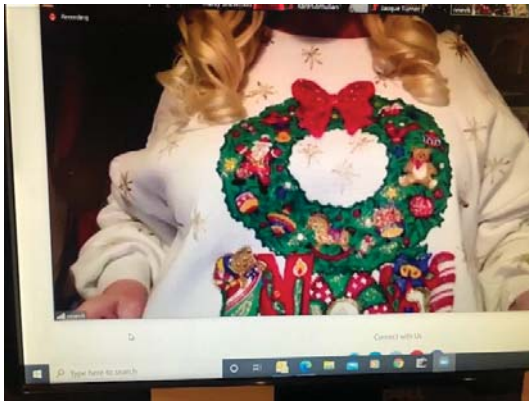
**FOR THE  
TROOPS**

REMOTE MEETINGS!  
WE ARE SO OVER IT, BUT WE MANAGE TO HAVE FUN!



The club continues to meet on Zoom calls, even our Annual Holiday Party was on line in 2020 but all had fun playing Bingo and more. See the pictures captured from our Zoom Holiday Party - Even got a picture of Nancy's Christmas Sweater. A student of hers older sister had decorated the sweater years ago.



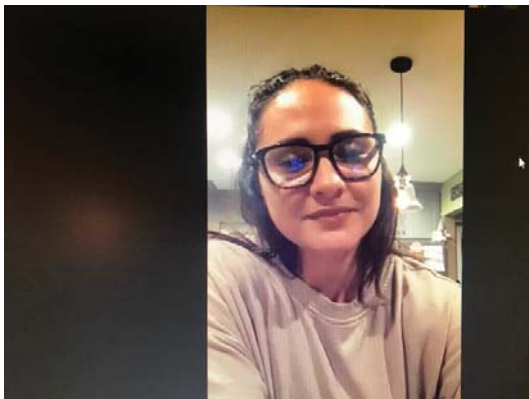


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## WITH ZOOM, WE ARE ABLE TO CONNECT IN A BETTER WAY!

We continue to host Guest Speakers for our Program Meetings. Below are two guests that addressed the efforts in Ventura County to for Trafficked Victims.

Katie Torres represented Law Enforcement and Evelyn Guillen represented Interface - an organization that works to assist trafficked victims out of the life. It was a very informative presentation.







## OUR SCHEDULE for 2021

January 5 Business Meeting Zoom Call  
January 19 Program Meeting Guest Speaker  
January 30 2nd Annual Poker Run Fund Raiser  
February 2 Business Meeting Zoom Call  
February 16 Program Meeting  
March 2 Business Meeting  
March 16 Program Meeting

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We hope to move forward with the 2nd Annual Poker Run Fund Raiser in January - information below. It was a great success last year and we hope to build upon the event every year. With today's restrictions it will be a last minute decision to have this event, otherwise it will be postponed to later in the year.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**



**SOROPTIMIST®**  
Investing in Dreams

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF CONEJO VALLEY



presents...

**2nd ANNUAL POKER RUN**

**Saturday, January 30, 2021**

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

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Our Signature Fund Raiser Margarita Mix Off is slated to happen later in 2021 depending on the circumstances. We could not have a successful event without our wonderful Sponsors. We truly appreciate all the support from our sponsors and community who attend the event.

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## THANKS TO 2020 SPONSORS



Please know that your **support** of our 19th Annual Margarita Mixoff was very much appreciated, even though the event had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Hope to see you in 2021!**

### GOLD SPONSORS



**WHOLE FOODS  
MARKET**

COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM

### SILVER SPONSORS



**Sue Gore**

### BRONZE SPONSORS



**Marcy & Don  
Shewmon**





## Soroptimist Vision & Mission

### VISION

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

### MISSION

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve 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.

Your donation to Soroptimist International of Conejo Valley will to help empower women and girls in the Conejo Valley and worldwide!

*People like YOU are helping women and girls around the world achieve their goals.*

*Donate now and help them live their dreams.*

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**DONATE NOW**



1<sup>st</sup> place recipient Amber Fairclough  
with 2020 Live Your Dream Chair, Sherry Love



Presentation to 2020 Live Your Dream runner-up recipient, Rachel Lopez.  
by Sherry Love-2020 Live Your Dream Chair, joined by 2021  
Live Your Dream Chair Suzanne Walker, and co-chair Jacque Turner

live  
**YOUR**  
dream  
education & training awards for women®



2020 Live Your Dream recipients Rachel Lopez and Amber Fairclough

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF CONEJO VALLEY



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**Our mailing address is:**

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**P.O. Box 3634**

**Thousand Oaks, CA 91359**

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

**Meetings are the 1st and 3rd TUESDAYs of the month using ZOOM**

**5:30 pm social time, 6:00 pm meeting start time**

If you are interested in attending a meeting to learn more,  
please RSVP to Debbie Cutler at (805) 218-7066.

