



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

Log 'n Line



Bringing Home the Loot from Conference

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Honors, laughter, winnings—Region Conference 2009 lived up to all expectations and then some!

The big winner of the weekend was Karen Jones who walked away with a gift basket, a case of wine, and (drum roll, please) a Fellow pin!

Our club received their 110% award for meeting all region expectations and then for exceeding the required points was also awarded \$500 to be used for SIA programs awards.

The Celebrating Success region finalist award in the area of Public Awareness recognized our newsletter, website, and publication tools (*The Face of Soroptimist* and *Our Commitment to Excellence* as well as the standardized for-

mat for other forms). We are now eligible for federation honors which will be announced this summer.

J Lee Nutter, our Women's Opportunity Award winner was

gracious and eloquent in her acceptance of district honors.

In addition to Karen, gift baskets were also won by Kris Shirrell, Alicia Cook, and Pinky Santiago.



Club members enjoy each other's company at Sunday brunch. Back row: Betsy Milan, Guia del Rosario, Pinky Santiago, Belva Gibson, Phyllis Neely; front: Pat Zuniga, Carol Howard, Karen Jones.

Special points of interest:

- President Carol talks about living in a wheel chair
- Pictures of Conference
- History of SI Vallejo's Memorial Grove
- Changes in bylaws and procedures proposed



Donna Estudillo, left, and Penny Doll, right, with their sponsor to membership Myrna Kingsbury.

We Welcome Two New Members

Donna Estudillo and Penny Doll recently joined the club. They were formally introduced at their induction on April 27.

Donna is the owner of Vallejo Glass. She and her husband Brian live in Napa.

A former member of our club (and a past president), Penny is a realtor with Gateway Realty. She has also recently started another business, Napa Valley Executive Limousines. She and her husband Hank live in Green Valley.

Both women were sponsored by Myrna Kingsbury. Penny is Myrna's daughter and Donna is a long time family friend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thoughts on The View From My Wheelchair



President Carol looking absolutely wonderful at the Fellowship session of Region Conference, Friday, May 1.

Editor's Note: President Carol Howard suffered a serious fall while working on gardening projects at her home on April 4. She and her husband Hank were anchoring plant containers on her front porch when a strap gave loose while she was pulling on it to provide traction. She fell backwards down the front concrete steps, resulting in a serious cut on her left hand, a gash to her head, and a Jones fracture of her right leg. Fellow Soroptimist Glenda Goode was working on her yard across the street and heard Hank yelling for assistance. Glenda ran to help, yelling to Ted as she crossed the street to call 911. The medical assistance took Carol to the nearest facility, Kaiser Permanente Hospital, where five staples were inserted in her head wound to stop the bleeding. Carol also had between 60 and 70 stitches put in her hand (the doctor lost count), and a cast put on her leg. She is now being treated by her primary facility at Travis Air Base. Her wounds are healing very slowly and she will not be able to walk for at least another month. She is also suffering from vertigo due to the blow to the head. She does, however, keep in touch with the club as much as she can and was able to attend at least part of most sessions of Region Conference. She wanted to share some of her thoughts on what she has learned about this terribly unfortunate incident.

Never let it be said that friends are not the greatest treasure! How I have appreciated all of you and your good wishes while I am laid up. It so brightens my day every time I open one of your cards, look at your flowers, read your e-mail messages, or get a call from you. It seems as though you have group esp! I will begin to feel down and depressed and just then, one of my dear fellow Soroptimist will reach out to me. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

That is the most important lesson I have learned. I have always valued your friendship. Now it is my lifeblood. Without your good wishes I would have sunk into despair so many times, but you won't let me! You buck me up and let me know that you care. With that kind of support how can I help but get better quickly? Believe me, I will be back to bug all of you soon. And meanwhile the phone is never far away.

What else have I learned? The Kaiser emergency room doctors and nurses are just wonderful. They were so thoughtful, gentle, and kind. They took one scared, nervous, near hysterical lady and calmed me right down. Even though this is not my normal hospital, they could not have treated me better or been kinder—from a nurse taking the time to wash the tears from my face with cool water to the treating doctor calling me at home to see how I was progressing. Thank you, Kaiser!

I will never talk down to someone in a wheelchair again. It is so helpful when someone gets down to eye level with me. I will never talk as though someone in a wheelchair can't hear the conversation. I will appreciate every friend with a strong back who can push a wheelchair. I will remember that when someone is sick, rarely are they so ill that they don't appreciate a little "hope you are feeling better today, I miss you" message. And I'll think twice about helping my husband with yard work.

This experience has made me appreciate my friends and family—and especially my dear husband Hank—so much! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I send you my love.

Carol Howard

Conference Snaps:



Sharon and Myrna at Fellowship program



Pat after a looong day!



Belva, Phyllis, Betsy, Shellee at Sunday brunch.

Memorial Grove: Result of Many Years of Work

The Vallejo Soroptimist Memorial Grove on Mare Island is the traditional site of our club's memorial services. Greta Lange took a few minutes to discuss the history of our establishing this grove following our club meeting on April 27.

Where did the idea of having a memorial grove here in Vallejo originate? It originated with my first formal visit to the Soroptimist memorial grove in far northern California, just south of Eureka. It was an *absolutely beautiful* redwood grove. In 1970 I attended a ceremony in memory of Soroptimists with Colleen Pace, then our President. And I thought we should do that!

So how did you get it going? When my mother died in the 1970's, I made a donation in her name to the club of several thousand dollars. That was the genesis of the memorial grove fund. Later the club voted to make donations to the fund when one of our members expired. We formed a committee of helpful Soroptimist members, as always, and investigated many sites. We found one or two that looked moderately appealing—one that was extraordinarily appealing—at one point someone suggested that we look at Mare Island. We committee members went to

Mare Island, and looked around. We were also referred to Joe Bates, who was head of all the tree conservation in Vallejo, by one of the members of the city council. A couple of members of our committee met with Joe Bates and we stated our name and our goal. He thoroughly investigated sites for us and we viewed many of them and chose the site on Mare Island. He planted the trees we chose. He was just marvelous to deal with.

I know there was a past history of involvement with GVRD. How over the years did that evolve? That was over several years. One of the sites that they showed us was a park with an area right on the straits, right down on the waterfront and the straits, a beautiful site. It was something we seriously considered until it turned out it was going to be possible multiple use and possibly might be objected to by people who overlooked the straits and wouldn't want tall trees obstructing their view of the waterfront. We took the better part of valor and departed from that site and also severed our connection with GVRD as they were not quite so cooperative as we had hoped.

What do you plan to recommend be done with

the remainder of the money in fund? I don't have the exact amount [in the fund], but it is several thousand dollars. I don't know at this point that there is a call for it. We had originally intended to buy a bench with that money, but we have more recently been advised that a bench may not be a good idea because of vandalism and thievery is probable. So, we are now thinking about a plaque, possibly a bronze plaque, to be embedded in the center of the earth, which could not be removed, but something of that type. That is what we are mulling over--how to approach that. We are still cogitating.

Do you recommend that we continue to collect money in the fund? I don't think so at this point. If it turns out that what our club selects is in excess of what we have in the fund, then I suggest that we continue, But just to be collecting money to be collecting money may not be a good idea.

Are you planning to have a memorial service this year? Yes. We generally have it on or around Memorial Day.

Thank you so much for your time, and thank you on behalf of all of our members for your work on this project.



Greta Lange, a consummate gardener and lover of plants, is pictured on the patio of Zio Fraedo's restaurant.

Those Special Days...

BIRTHDAYS

- Phyllis Neely...May 7
- Karen Jones...May 12
- Onetta Munkres...May 15
- Kathy Hahn...May 18
- Mimi Farone...May 19
- Pat Zuniga...May 24
- Belva Gibson...May 29

CLUB ANNIVERSARY

- Millie Watson
May 1, 1976
- Ursula William
May 1, 1983
- Myrna Kingsbury
May 19, 1984
- Marina Vlnar
May 28, 2007
- Sharlynn Willingham
May 28, 2007

So...you think you know Soroptimist?

We celebrate special days and events as Soroptimist. Some are unique to our club and others are more general. What month are the following celebrated or held? Answer below.

- A. Club birthday
- B. Founder's Day
- C. International Women's Day
- D. United Nation's Day
- E. President's Appeal

A. October; B. October; C. March; D. October; E. December (October is one busy month!)

Schedule of Events

11- Voting on bylaw and procedure changes; budget presented

25—Dark for Memorial Day. Memorial program planned. Contact Greta Lange for details.

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>SafeQuest</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11 <i>Business</i>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>DARK</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Irene Heenan shows off her Fellow certificate awarded during conference.

Irene Heenan and Anne Ligda Chosen as Fellows

Irene Heenan and Anne Ligda were chosen as our club's fellows this year. Because we raised over \$2000 in our quilt raffle, we were able to name two Fellows.

Irene has served as our club's chaplain for several years. She has been an active member for over

hmmmm years and has served in many capacities, including notably as the chairman of the extension committee to charter SI Benicia.

Anne's selection was in memoriam and recognized her many years of service as a club president, friendship

link delegate, valued committee member and chairman, and song leader.

In accordance with our policies, the selection was made by the board after they reviewed the many recommendations received from the membership.

Run Off Race for Federation President Elect

In the **Federation President Elect race**, there was no outright winner. The two candidates with the highest numbers of votes will now face a run off election.

They are Sharon Fisher of Langley, British Columbia who originally received 298 votes and Pat Donohue of Watsonville, California who received 237 votes. The results will now be available

sometime after June 24. Video statements by both candidates are available at the SIA website.

Upcoming club year dues are \$5 for International. For federation, dues are set at \$52 for all members except life members, whose dues are \$10. Life member dues do not include the magazine subscription. Additionally, members pay region and club an-

nual dues. Mandatory insurance fee is \$1 (a decrease from previous charges). Founders Pennies are \$5.34 and the mandatory convention fee is \$325 per club.

Venture Clubs will be fully transitioned into Soroptimist in the future. Planning and strategies for the transition are being studied at this time by the SIA staff.

Proposed Changes to Our Club Procedures

Changes in club bylaws and procedures have been recommended by the Laws and Resolutions committee. Notice of the proposed changes was made at the April business meeting and voting will take place at the May business meeting.

The major changes revolve around easing our procedures while allowing for more timely actions. Time limits for items requiring prior notice (club elections, bylaw and procedure changes, and budget allowances) would be two weeks rather than the one month now required. This will allow proposals to become effective more rapidly.

It has been increasingly difficult to get members to accept chairmanships of committees and it is hoped that by decreasing the number of committees while making them more relevant, this problem might be alleviated.

The former programs of service committee would be consolidated into a single committee to be called Service in Action. All club members would be expected to assist

with this committee in the same manner as they assist with the Ways and Means committee and the Social committee. This change was proposed to respond to the majority of our members who in the club survey expressed a strong desire that we become more involved in hands on service.

Another committee consolidation is the public awareness, roster, and bulletin committee under the name Communications committee. This committee would be responsible for all internal and external communications, including upkeep of the website and monitoring the email account. The publication of the roster, the newsletter, and obtaining outside publicity as may be available would also be handled by this committee.

The old Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training Committee would be restructured as Soroptimist Leadership Training. Its orientation would change from being primarily educational to being primarily a planning committee under the leadership of the President Elect. The commit-

tee would develop plans for the coming year including developing strategies to meet the plans. A new President would be able to enter her presidency with specific goals developed under her leadership but with input from club members and strategies and a team to help her reach her aspirations.

An idea brought back from district meeting is being proposed, that of developing the club's budget in the spring. This will prevent the problems we have encountered in not having a budget for the first third of the club year.

A club awards program for members with good attendance is proposed. The program would be administered by the two directors and award members with 85% or better attendance. For most members only attendance at club meetings would be counted, but for board members to receive an award, they must have 85% attendance at the combination of regular weekly meetings and board meetings. There would be no make-up meetings. The 85% has a built in factor for vacations.

"...major changes revolve around easing our procedures while allowing for more timely actions."

Secret Soroptimist of the Month



Last month we saw Onetta Munkres as she happily celebrated Easter...and a very pretty young lady she was!

This month all beautiful and ready to go with her arms full of flowers and bows in her hair who do we have? She is still the picture of fashion, but who is she?

Incoming Elected Representative

The results of the election held in April resulted in the following incoming slate of representatives;

President—Pat Zuniga

First Vice President—Sharon Powers

Second Vice President—Helen Intintoli

Recording Secretary—Sharlynn Willingham

Corresponding Secretary—Alicia Cook

Treasurer—Karen Jones

Assistant Treasurer—Pinky Santiago

Senior Director—Kris Shirrell

Junior Director—Shelee Loughmiller

Delegate—Glenda Goode

The Legal Stuff

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*improving the lives of women and girls, locally
and throughout the world*

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. A 501 (c)(3) organization, Soroptimist relies on charitable contributions to fund its programs.

Soroptimist International of Vallejo was chartered in October, 1939, and since that time has been an integral part of the community. Numerous local programs which benefit women and girl are funded through the club. Known for it's dynamic scholarship program, benefiting girls in local high schools and colleges, the club is also a proud, enthusiastic participant in Soroptimist Founder Region Foundation which funds fellowships for women in the final years of their doctoral studies.

Picture Of the Month

Christine Lemke celebrated her ninetieth birthday with us. She was presented with a cake and gift certificate. Here Pat Zuniga helps her show off her cake.



Officers

Carol Howard, President

**Pat Zuniga,
1st Vice-President**

**Helen Intintoli,
2nd Vice-President**

**Sharlynn Willingham,
Recording Secretary**

**Kathy Hahn,
Corresponding Secretary**

Karen Jones, Treasurer

**Pinky Santiago,
Assistant Treasurer**

**Sharon Powers,
Senior Director**

**Cathy Prevolos,
Junior Director**

Delegate

Phyllis Neely