

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**PRESIDENT:** Wendy Duede

**EDITOR:** Betty Oakes

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### Schedule for March

**March 10: Lunch/Business Meeting (11:30 at US Bank)**

**March 17: Dinner Meeting 5:30 at Ruth's home.**



### March Birthdays:

Carol Wise (3/25)

### Foster Kids Birthday reminders:

Ally (2 on 3/10) Pat

JoJo (8 on 3/14) Wendy

Bryson (8 on 3/14) Katy

When Betty, Katy, and Diane and I attended the recent Area Meeting, we came away with a few ideas and a renewal of what we as a larger body do for the good of women and girls. At the meeting, I reported what our club accomplishes. I know our group has gotten smaller, but there is still some might in those numbers.

Our projects have included the following:

\*Backpacks for kids - financial support for providing week-end nutrition for needy children.

\*Foster children - budgets are tight with foster families - we take turns buying birthday gifts for the kids, asking the caseworker what the child likes to get them something for their special day.

\*Gateway Park - this park has our name on the sign, and we cover the costs of keeping it maintained.

\*Guardian *ad litem* - we provide financial support (donation) for those who are legally appointed by the court to oversee the welfare of children.

\*Olympic Peninsula Human Trafficking Event - financial support to their cause.

\*Scholarship - we are still providing a continuing scholarship for a college student.

\*Soroptithon - we are going to try it again this year, the triathlon for kids.

\*Yankee Candle fundraiser - we made 40% on online sales and 30% on catalog orders.

\*Mindy Walker - we made a donation to her cause to find enough funds for a matching grant to build a school in the Congo that helps girls that have been in the sex trade.

\*Coupon books - we still sell them, started at \$20 with a drawing, they are now down to \$10. (WE STILL HAVE BOOKS LEFT TO SELL!)

Thank-you everyone for help in these projects!

I just want to remind everyone that we only have about three months left to sell coupon books. I have the books and you can stop by my work anytime to pick more of them up or call me and I'll be happy to drop some by. In addition, it makes it easier to renew the merchants if the coupons get used. Please make sure you get out there and use those coupons. Radio Shack did not renew last year because they said not one person came in and used their coupon.

President Wendy

**Mark your Calendar:**

2016 NW Region Conference  
April 21-24, 2016, Spokane, WA  
Davenport Hotel  
2016 SIA 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention:  
July 20-23, Orlando, FL  
Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel

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**AREA MEETING**

By Betty Oakes

On Saturday, February 20, four of us (Wendy, Katy, Diane and I) headed for Poulsbo to attend the Peninsula Area Meeting. It is always good catching up with fellow Soroptimists from Forks to Gig Harbor and everywhere in between. The ladies from Poulsbo (SI Greater North Kitsap) did a fabulous job of organizing the event and in addition to making sure we had plenty of coffee, muffins, and a box lunch, there was a “boatload” (literally) of Hershey’s miniatures on each table as well as a goody bag for everyone.

The program started out with a welcome from Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson and SI GNK President MaryAnn Bartley. Each of the 9 presidents gave a 5-minute talk telling about what her club was doing. It was interesting hearing about what each of the clubs was doing for the “Dream It, Be It” project and hearing about the recipients of the “Live Your Dream” award in each club, as well as their other activities.



(President Wendy reports on SI Port Townsend at the Area Meeting)

Nancy Buechner, District 1 Director, spoke and then we broke up into groups and discussed the 4 focus areas. After which a few speakers from each group gave a synopsis about what their group talked about.

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**AREA MEETING REPORT**

By Wendy Duede

Betty, Katy, Diane and I attended the area meeting in Poulsbo at the City Hall. The meeting started out with a welcome from the President of SI Poulsbo, MaryAnn Bartley. She then introduced Mayor Becky Erickson, one of only a few women mayors in our state.

The club presidents all got to take a turn in sharing their club news. Some of those speakers had lots to say and had to be reminded of their time limit. I tried to keep it a little shorter, and didn't have to be timed out.

The Region Conference is in April, and the NW Region service project is going to be a raffle of 4 baskets. Each club in our District has been asked to provide a minimum \$50 donation in goodies, non-local gift cards, etc. This fundraiser will go to the "Imagine Life Without Violence" campaign.

The next Grant of Friendship sister will be coming from Sweden. North Kitsap was asked to be her sponsor and Past District Director Bernie Bell is working closely with this project.

District 1 Director Nancy Buechner led an activity session where we all grouped ourselves at other tables and brain-stormed on different topics. They included ideas on membership, club giving, social media, and meeting attendance to mention a few.

Some of the projects/ideas shared by other clubs included:

The Port Angeles club does gift bags for teens, they call them Soroptibaskets. I think they said they do this at Christmas. Their big fundraiser is to turn the town pink in June. Their club just turned 72.

PA Jet Set recognizes a Girl of the Quarter who is chosen by the staff at the high school. They still have a Girls Circle program and hold a Christmas party at the Boys & Girls Club for over 140 kids.

Another club puts out a sandwich board on the street when they are having a meeting. They also made window clings and stickers to share their involvement. I didn't make a note on who does this but it's a great idea!

Bremerton does a Bunco party fundraiser, a trivia night with a silent auction and raffles, and they give Christmas presents to women in an adult elder daycare. They also contribute to a "Help Pantry" that provides hygiene items at the school for those who need them.

Gig Harbor works closely with an alternative school, Henderson Bay, and a teen mom child care center called Brussel Sprouts. They also do a Harbor Harvest Dinner and Auction. On a side note, they only have 11 members. They require everyone to get involved in 2 or 3 committees. They really take service to heart.

Greater North Kitsap does a Wine & Cheese Party to recruit new members. They made \$730 selling See's Candy. They used to do the Bras for a Cause fundraiser, but they are now doing an Uninvite Fundraiser inviting everyone to stay home and write a check. Their newest project is to cre-

ate a Poulsbopoly board game, hoping to raise \$20,000.

Port Orchard sets a goal to complete on service project a month. One of the projects they are working on is a baby supply network to help those that need it.

Sequim also does See's Candies and they have their Spring Garden show coming up on March 19! We took flyers to share in the area for them.

I didn't take very good notes; this is just a partial synopsis of what we learned. I have a copy of the uninvitation to share at the next meeting. We learn so much at these functions, I encourage all of you to attend at least one of them this year.

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### **Member News:**

From Janet Jacobs: Chris (my son) hired an optician but still needs a third person, so my work at his office continues. Not sure when I'm coming home as it's contingent on him being fully staffed. A tech was supposed to start today but didn't show. That doesn't seem uncommon, which is really surprising to me.

In addition to a hot air balloon ride, I took two cooking classes from Sur La Table—Tapas and Winter Dinner in France. Chris went with me for the second one. I think we were the last two people in America to see the latest Star Wars movie. I am definitely ready to be planning my return but am just on hold. Nuts. My best to everyone.

From Pat Durbin: My big news is that I spent a week in Southern California and couldn't wait to get home. I can't believe I ever lived there! There was traffic and congestion everywhere I went. I abandoned the idea of traveling from Newport Beach to visit my family in the West San Fernando Valley because I thought it might turn out to be an all-day drive! I had fun just sitting around, though, visiting friends near where I stayed.

From Ruth Gordon: February has been a busy month for Ruth with several urgent trips to Olympia to testify for or against bills in the legisla-

ture. It sounds exciting, but is really pretty repetitive. Last Wednesday's trip south happened in the middle of the day instead of the wee hours of the morning and it was sunny—so Ruth enjoyed a quick drive down 101 along the Hood Canal. The sunlight on the mossy leafless Maple trees was stunning. Ruth ate jalapeno poppers and an ice cream cone and she just did not care. She is participating in the Bigfoot Challenge on the County's team, so she should care about absolutely everything, but honestly, it is kind of touch and go, attitude-wise.

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**ELLA's JOKE CORNER:**

GOD LOOKED DOWN...and saw that most seniors never get enough exercise. In His infinite wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In his wisdom he made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find that as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember—it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Here are Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

- 9. Death is the #1 killer in the world.
- 8. Life is sexually transmitted.
- 7. Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

6. Old men have 2 motivations: Hunger and hanky panky and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eye, make him a sandwich.

5. Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and he won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe even years.

4. Health nuts are going to feel really stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

3. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

2. In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

1. Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today might burn your butt tomorrow.

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**AND FROM BETTY:**

