

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT: Katy Guthridge

EDITOR: Betty Oakes

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Schedule for May

**May 11:** Business Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Alchemy Restaurant

**May 18:** Dinner Meeting,  
5:30 PM, Alchemy Restaurant

May Birthdays:

Alyce Hansen (May 4)  
Katy Guthridge (May 4)  
Pat Durbin (May 23)

June Birthdays:

Diane Kenyon (June 16)

Foster Kids Birthday reminders:

Dakota (18 on May 12) Alyce  
Halie (12 on June 12) Penny

DSHS Contact Person:

Debbie Baker

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Greetings Sisters!

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beginning of Spring. Finally!

Last weekend (Thursday evening through Sunday morning to be specific), Victoria and I attended the 99th Northwestern Region Conference in beautiful Vancouver, WA. There were 86 clubs registered and 299 Soroptimists in attendance. (That's A LOT of women!!) It was a great conference, with many wonderful speakers, presenters, and Live Your Dream Award winners. It always renews my passion for what we do when I listen to the stories of the young women who are so overwhelmed with gratitude for our assistance. Their stories are both heartbreaking and inspiring. It makes me proud to be part of a community of women who make such a positive impact on so many lives.

The workshops were informative, creative, and interactive. Some of the topics were: "The Dream Programs" (Creating Dream Teams for Girls); Using Social Media to Build Your Public Awareness Pillar; Live Your Dream--How to Attract the Best Players to your Tteam; Using a Picture to Accelerate Your Success; and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: The Prostitution of America's Children.

Governor Stephanie spoke of the NWR's biennium goals (as she did at the District Conference last fall) and how they correspond with the Four Pillars of Soroptimist:

- 1) Program: 100% club participation in LYDA
- 2) Membership: 25% net gain in membership for each club
- 3) Fundraising: ALL clubs participate in SIA Club Giving, donating at a level that works for each club
- 4) Public Awareness: ALL clubs use their SIA Club email. All Soroptimist members receive and read the Soroptimist Woman Newsletter

I am happy to say that SIPT is on track with our leadership's goals. There are areas of "opportunity" (I'm thinking Public Awareness and Membership) but in the other two Pillars (Program and Fundraising) we are on track. Let's keep up the great work and focus on making SIPT the BEST we can be!

I will be leaving for Italy for three weeks on May 9, so unfortunately I will miss the May meetings. I look forward to seeing you in June!

Best,

President Katy

**Mark your Calendar:**

**District 1 Meeting**

Ferndale, WA  
Silver Reef Casino & Resort  
October 20–22, 2017

**Area Meeting**

February 24 (Place TBD)

**NWR Conference**

Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Coeur d'Alene Resort  
April 20–22, 2018

**45th Biennial SIA Convention**

Yokohama, Japan  
July 30–August 2, 2018

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**Workshop Report**

By: Katy Guthridge

I attended several fabulous workshops during the conference. One was called "The Dream Programs" and detailed the criteria for the LYDA and DIBI award. It was reiterated that the Live Your Dream award is "nonnegotiable;" the expectation is that every club will have a recipient, as Live Your Dream is the signature program of Soroptimist.

The Dream It Be It award (formerly known as the Violet Richardson award) is optional, but strongly suggested. This award targets girls in secondary school (usually 14-18 year olds) who face obstacles to their future success. There are two options for executing the program: 1) Conducting a one-day conference with 25-30 girls OR 2) Piloting a 7 week mentoring program with 5-10 girls. There was a panel of club members who participated in

the program and shared tips and insights for those who may be considering it. For some clubs it took 3 years of planning to get off the ground. Some of the clubs who shared ideas were Oak Harbor, Coupeville, P.A. Jet Set and Pasco-Kennewick. They all agreed that it's an excellent resource for gaining new members through partnering with community members, and that you absolutely must have a passion for the program.

Another workshop was called the "Coaches Corner" and was facilitated by Governor Stephanie. Much of this workshop focused on utilizing the NWR website and The Soroptimist Woman monthly newsletter which is found under the "Members Only" tab. This website has an absolute wealth of information and it's available to all members. If you haven't checked it out recently, you need to!

She talked about Club Giving--the importance of participating in it (which we are now) and that as long as the funds are in the budget to go ahead and send it in; don't wait until the deadline (May 31).

Another point she made was that as far as community donations, etc. go, to keep in mind that 75% of our projects should be MISSION Focused ("Improving the Lives of Women and Girls") and 25% should be Community Focused. We should always be thinking "Does this fall under Soroptimist's Mission?" when deciding to donate money to a particular cause or organization. This certainly doesn't mean that every dollar has to be Mission Focused, but clubs should budget with LYDA #1 and Club Giving (for example) #2, as it is in line with the mission.

The workshop that resonated with me in a profound way was titled "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: The Prostitution of America's Children" facilitated by Linda Smith, founder and president of Shared Hope International and former Washington State Congresswoman. Linda defined exactly what DMST is and showed a snippet of the film "Chosen" which she wrote and produced. (I brought back a trailer of the film on a CD-ROM disc if anyone is interested in watching it.) It is often used as a video presentation tool for middle and high school students using the real-life

stories of two Pacific Northwest teens who were chosen by traffickers. The average age in the U.S. for minor sex trafficking is 13. (In Washington State it's 15.) She explains how pimps can spend years grooming a young girl as young as 8 or 9, making her believe he's her friend, confidant, and her protector.

Shared Hope International combats minor sex trafficking through a three-prong approach: Prevent; Restore; and Bring Justice. Their Mission states: "Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We lead prevention strategies, restoration programs and justice initiatives to combat trafficking in the U.S. and abroad".

I would encourage every one of our members to check out the website SharedHope.org. There is an absolute plethora of information on this issue. I would love to have our club host an event to spotlight this heartbreaking reality. This definitely aligns with the Soroptimist "Program" Pillar, as Soroptimists STOP Trafficking was launched as one of our "Other Programs" back in 2007.

When Linda stated, "Awareness is the most important thing," and that we need to "Shine a Light" on the warning signs of trafficking—she had me.



Katy and Victoria have fun at Conference

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99<sup>th</sup> Northwestern Region Soroptimist Conference Report (April 27-30, 2017, Vancouver, WA)  
By: Victoria Kelley

Fellow members, I want to thank you for the opportunity of attending the regional conference as one of your delegates. I was surprised at the generosity of our club for paying for my expenses and I am most grateful. As one of your delegates, I took the voting process seriously and voted for the benefit and continued growth of the Northwestern Region.

I found the four days exhilarating, informative, interesting, heartfelt, educational and sometimes poignant. I had a magnificent time and felt the camaraderie of the group.

The theme of the conference was TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK with a focus towards baseball jargon. The last night the members dressed in baseball attire for a fun filled evening. The first night they offered a movie, TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME showing A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN.

Our governor, Stephanie Smith, led us in the opening ceremony followed by Anne McEnery-Ogle Mayor Pro-tem of Vancouver. The business session was run using Roberts Rules of Order. Motions were submitted and new rules and changes were voted on. Bylaws and changes will be covered in Katy's report.

We had excellent keynote speakers with information on growing our clubs and some with motivational emphasis. The workshops were valuable and very well presented. Some of the workshop names conformed to the conference theme with titles such as GAME ON and TURNING BENCHWARMERS INTO ALL-STAR PLAYERS. I was so moved by the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking workshop that I am signing up to go for training to be an Ambassador for Hope, through the Shared Hope International organization, started by Linda Smith. The classes supply you with the latest information and State laws where you can speak at schools, clubs, business organizations, and churches with the goal of enhancing public awareness.

The workshop, USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD YOUR PUBLIC AWARENESS PILLAR, was very informative with a huge amount of material. I will give some highlights here but can supply more in-depth material and instruction upon request, written separately. The workshop stressed the challenge of promoting your club's mission, events, and profile in your community. It was strongly suggested that clubs utilize Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and have a club website that is kept up to date. Ninety percent of Millennials are social media users. Sixty five percent of Americans have at least one social media account with thirty percent of Baby Boomers age sixty five and older belonging to one or more social networks.

It was suggested for Facebook a business page is set up as it is public and can help to extend your reach. If a group page is set up then only people you invite can view your page. This applies to Twitter also. Be sure to specify that you are a non-profit community organization.

Common vocabulary used are; Value Proposition: A statement that tells your audience what is important and why they should want to be involved. Calls to Action: Statement that invites your audience to participate or donate. Tags and Captions: Label to identify someone; Brief explanation of a photo. User-generated Content: Any content (e.g., images, comments, likes) your audience creates on your page. Hashtag: Phrase preceded by # to identify message or topic. It is advised to post your calendar two months out. The importance of club growth is new members but also retaining the current members. They stressed the retention of membership and keeping the members engaged. Always plan interesting meetings with a theme and make the meeting fun. Keep current with fund raising projects. An example of games to play at meetings was given. I have websites to give to our webmaster administrator that gives step by step instructions to set up a proper Facebook page and website.

I was deeply touched by the Live Your Dream Education and Training Awards that were given and the women who came to the conference to share their stories and give their heartfelt thanks to our clubs.

The last night was the Hall of Fame Awards Dinner where members were recognized and given awards for their contributions, participation and dedication to our organization.

In summary I had a rewarding experience attending the Regional Conference and I am happy to be a new member of this respected, dedicated and beneficial organization.

(Editor's Note: We are extremely happy to have Victoria as our newest member! Thanks for your enthusiasm, Victoria!)



Katy and Victoria at Conference

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MEMBER NEWS:

From Carol Wise: I lost a colleague last week, and that reminded me of how special each and every one of you are and the imprint you have made on me over the years. I need to say "Thank You!" He was gone in a flash. Don't let that happen to those you love, care for or quietly adore. In the spirit of Soroptimist love and the great work and efforts of this Club locally and internationally I say Cheers!

From Penny Westerfield:  
A VERY FUN BIRTHDAY WEEK!

Just about every spring or so, Betty goes to Las Vegas and meets up with her high school buddies and does other fun things. This year she invited me! I had never been to Las Vegas before or that part of the country and when I started looking at the map, I noticed all the great natural wonders

that surrounded Las Vegas and talked (or dragged) Betty into going along with me.

We stayed at Betty's timeshare in Las Vegas and that was great. It was fun seeing all the hotel casinos in real life, but the diversity of the sea of humanity that was there was something else!

The second day we were there, a shuttle from the timeshare took us to The Orleans which is a large casino-hotel a short ways away. It was my first foray into a large casino, and it wasn't even the biggest! Being in casinos isn't as big a deal as it used to be because casinos are everywhere now. Finally, we sat down at the slots, side by side. I put in \$10 and it was gone in a flash. Betty put in \$20, and, about half-way through that, she started getting bonuses. It was fun being there and watching the money pile up. When all was said and done, she cashed out with \$91.00! Not bad for a few minutes "work." That was the first and last time we gambled in Las Vegas.

The Grand Canyon was a little over a four hour drive from Las Vegas. I have never driven on such long and straight roads in my life, with hardly any signs of civilization. We spent two days there. The first time I saw it tears came to my eyes. I was finally there! It was VERY windy, though.

We also toured the Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and Red Rock Canyon. The day of my birthday we ate at a yummy buffet in the Paris Hotel and then saw a show at Planet Hollywood, "Vegas! The Show" which is all about the early days of entertainment in Las Vegas before they tore down all the classic hotels. The singing and dancing were awesome, and there were comedy acts in between the production numbers that were hilarious. It was a perfect show.

I am a huge fan of the TV show "Tanked" which is filmed in Las Vegas and focuses on a company that manufactures custom acrylic aquariums – mostly for famous people. I've watched the show for years and looked the place up on the internet before we left. Turns out it was located not very far from the timeshare! So I dragged Betty there and it was really fun for me to see the place where the show is filmed. There was also a gift shop (of course) and while we were roaming through that, one of the main stars of the show came through

and shook our hands! I got a picture taken with Brett a little later. What a treat to meet a couple of the folks in the show. Yay!



This is the picture of Brett and Penny at "Tanked."

Our last foray to The Strip was another shuttle run to Caesar's Palace and the Forum Shops. Talk about sensory overload! There are 160 shops and restaurants there, not to mention the casino and the theatres. Our last meal was at Spago which was fun and not as expensive as we thought. I was hoping to eat at Bobby Flay's Mesa Grill but that was really expensive!!

It was a fabulous, very fun week, full of new adventures and enough "down time" that we didn't wear ourselves out. I have gained a new appreciation for the desert and succulents which I never thought I would! It was one of the best birthdays I've ever had!

From Betty Oakes: What can I say that Penny hasn't already said? I was happy to meet up with former classmates at their weekly coffee klatch at the "Joker's Wild" Casino. Ten came from my class which was great. It's always fun to see them.

A classmate posted this on Facebook and I had to share:

Salt Lake vs Denver: I couldn't decide whether to go to Salt Lake City or Denver for my vacation, so I called the airlines to get prices. "Airfare to Denver is \$300," said a cheery salesperson. "And what about Salt Lake City, I enquired." "We have a really great rate to Salt Lake. It's \$99, but there is a stopover."

"Where?"

"In Denver."



Penny and Betty at the Grand Canyon

### ELLA'S JOKE CORNER:

Just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year, not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

If I had a dollar for every girl that found me unattractive, they would eventually find me attractive.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body--men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

A recent study has found those women who carry a little extra weight, live longer than the men who mention it.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

Money talks, but all mine ever says is good-bye.

You're not fat; you're just easier to see.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

I can't understand why women are okay that JC Penney's has an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor."

My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.