



SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 22 Issue No.12 June 2020

Calendar

All meetings noon BJ's
OR on Zoom

June

4 – Meeting
11 – Meeting
18 - Board
25th Installation

July

9– meeting
16– meeting
30 social

August

6– Meeting
13– Meeting
20- Chocolate event online

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News Flash

JUNE MEETINGS

The participation of our members is the backbone of our club. The Board of Directors wants to be certain that during this pandemic, all of our members can make decisions regarding their own health and safety. Our club will be following the guidelines from the State of Montana which as of June 1st will allow meeting of groups the size of our club. The Directors realize that while some members are ready and willing for in-person meetings, some members are in a higher risk pool and would not be comfortable coming to an in-person meeting. Our goal is to make the club accessible to all members! So, we will be having hybrid meetings for the time being. Those who wish to meet in person will meet on June 4th in the conference room at BJ's. We also will have members joining the meeting via Zoom. BJ's has completed a deep cleaning, has painted the inside of the building and has arranged table to accommodate social distancing.

We'll "SEE" you at the meeting June 4th!

Teri





What a relaxed evening! SI member Gini Rogers offered her home for the first social of the summer. She and her husband, Pat, were great hosts. It was a hybrid social, so we had some members attend via Zoom. We also had 3 prospective members in attendance. Gini had prepared a wonderful dinner including homemade ice cream for dessert! It was a perfect evening to be outside. We all were awestruck by the beauty of our valley. It was a great time to catch up and see each other in person.

Thanks so much to Gini Rogers

Teri Polumsky

Thank you!!!

Huge thanks to Gini and Pat Rogers for hosting our May Social on the 28th! Such gorgeous views from their deck facing the Bitter Root River and mountains! Not to mention the wonderful food she had prepared for us. That you all who attended in person and by Zoom meeting.

Vikki Bell



STORAGE SHED SHOPPPING!!



Mary Lyn has graciously allowed us to store Soroptimist items in her warehouse. So, Sue Smith, Mary Lyn, Nancy Bussiere, Patti Martin and Teri Polumsky have been on a mission to sort through items in the storage shed. Greg, Nancy's husband has been a huge help! Additionally, Kathleen Graler, Nancy Bussiere, Barb June and Mary Lyn have been working to digitize our Soroptimist history. This is a great project. Our history is coming alive for all to see! Because of all the sorting, there are a lot of things that might come in handy for you! So, why not take a little shopping stop at the storage shed. You'll see an area filled with items that are yours for the taking. All we ask is that you give a donation to SI Hamilton. You'll find everything from kitchen utensils to baskets to serving trays to coolers. All are items are from fundraisers we no longer sponsor. Areas are clearly marked as to what is to be kept and what can go. The unit is located south of Hamilton on the eastside of the road. You will see a grey metal building and some U-Haul vehicles. The keypad code on the main storage building door is 19160. Our unit is the first door on the right as you go into the building. The padlock combination is 1012. Please lock the door when you leave. To close the main door, look on the right side of the door frame. You will see a red button marked "close". Press it – you will have plenty of time to get outside. We will cut off the shopping on June 11, so first come first serve! Donations can be given to our Treasurer, Sue Smith, at any meeting or mailed to SI Hamilton, P.O. Box 1012, Hamilton, MT 59840.

Special thanks to Isabelle Moerkerke, a charter member and still a member. Izzy has given us a great deal on the unit for many years. But, we are trying to cut expenses every way we can.

Club dues

Thanks to all of you for paying your dues during this strange time. Our combined commitment to helping women and girls in our community is more important than ever and we appreciate your dedication to helping women.

Dues are \$140 or \$150 if you wish to help out our club operations. They are due by June 11th at a meeting or at PO Box 1012, Hamilton. Please call Sue Smith with questions 381-1270. Thank you!





AN EVENING WRAPPED IN CHOCOLATE REIMAGINED

An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate has been moved to online and will be August 20th. The committee decided we had to have the event, or we would have no money for Scholarships next year. September, even though a few months away, we just were not comfortable having that many people in one room. So, we are really asking the membership for your help with this event. Because it will be online, we are asking the membership to help get the word out to your friends, family, clients, etc. Anyone can join in the fun. The silent auction items will be up for bid a few days before the actual night of the event, then we will have the paddle call, wine pull, bowl of money, and the live auction on the 20th. The evening will be different but if we all work together, we could have a successful event. Our plan is to make the website and auction site live 30 days prior to the event.

If you have donated anything for the silent auction could you, please bring it to the meeting, or if you prefer, we can meet somewhere, or you can bring it to my house. We must take pictures of each item with a description for the silent auction. If we do this ahead of time it will be much easier of us all. So “An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate” will be different but we will still make some money. Mary Lynn has spent numerous hours looking for the best online auction site, so we owe her a debt of gratitude to come up with this for us.

Patti Martin,
Chairman



To the 2019-2020 Board and Membership,

Ladies, it has been a pleasure to serve as your President from June 2019 to March 2020. Not quite a year!



We had a great Scholarship program, successful Christmas and Valentine's See's, incredible socials, laughter, tears, kept on budget, continued assistance to our community and international initiatives, and the most important – support of each other.

Although my tenure was cut short, the club didn't miss a beat to go forward. My decision to help our community was difficult and heart wrenching, but I knew the Soroptimist would be ok because of all of you. I had an idea that serving the community would be a challenging task. I had no idea it would last as long as it has or become an event that has changed the world.

In lieu of exchanging gifts between the president and board, if you so choose, I would like donations made to the general fund of Soroptimist.

Thank you for a great eight and a half months. Thank you for your service and contribution to Soroptimist and our community. We had the successes we did last year because of you.

Thank You!

/s/ Dixie

Past President Dixie

May 2020



**LIFE IS GOOD – a bit challenging sometimes-
BUT GOOD**

Soroptimist scrapbooks and photos

We are looking for club items for Our Club history to be on our club website for all to see.

If you have any please contact Nancy Bussiere, Barbara June or Kathleen Graler. See the website for our contact info. Thanks.



examples

In late May, the Awards Committee sent out an individualized email to our Scholarship recipients.

For example:

Dear Shannon:

So much has happened in the world since you were awarded the Patti Furness scholarship from Soroptimist International of Hamilton. Early March seems like a lifetime ago, doesn't it? We hope that this email finds you, your family, and your friends healthy and weathering this pandemic as best you can? We want you to know that we are thinking of you. If you have a moment, perhaps you could email and let us know how you are doing. We are so very glad that you applied to our Scholarship program, Shannon, and hope that your future continues to look bright.

Most sincerely,
the Ladies of SI Hamilton

Here are the responses we have received to date:

Thank you for reaching out to me that is very thoughtful. My family and I are well and taking many precautions to stay safe. My mom and I have been sewing masks like crazy on the weekends, at this point I think we have made around 200! It has helped keep us busy. I was recently elected as a Montana FFA State Officer and we have jumped right into it! I have been doing many online conference calls and training sessions with my team. I am still planning on attending MSU this fall but because of my compromised immune system I am going to be living off campus. I am disappointed because I was really looking forward to the dorm experience, but I am very excited and grateful that I can live off campus and have found a roommate who is very responsible and helpful in our search to find an apartment. I have been tasked as the leader of our graduation plans and we will have a socially distanced ceremony on the football field the 7th.

I hope that all of you ladies of SI Hamilton are doing well and staying safe. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely, Gracie Smith

Hello! Thank you for checking in with me. I am doing great! The Bitterroot College did a good job on transferring all classes to remote learning and I ended the semester with straight A's and am working on summer school classes right now and currently have A's as well. I am looking forward to the fall and can't wait to start my A&P class with a lab! Thank you so very much for the scholarship! It boosted my confidence that someone else believed in me and helped get me started on my goal of becoming a midwife in a VERY real and practical way! Thank you so so very much, from the bottom of my heart! I hope I can make you all proud and that you will feel like your money and time were well spent on encouraging and

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helping me reach my goals! I hope you are doing well as well and I appreciate all you wonderful ladies do to empower people like me to make this dream a reality. From selling chocolates to special events and all the work you ladies do, know that it has a HUGE impact on those who receive your sponsorship!!

~Shannon Hochhalter

Thank you for your email. I'm doing great! I just finished my first semester and am proud to say I received all A's! I'm looking forward to starting classes again in the fall. I've had some issues with my grant, but hopefully it will be straightened out soon so I can register for fall. I thank you again for your generous scholarship. It has helped greatly and motivated me to do my best to show that appreciation.

Sincerely,
Chris Rowles

Early March feels like a life time ago! So far myself and my family are still healthy, and we pray it stays that way. Even though so much has happened, I am still eagerly awaiting the next part of my journey.

Jennifer Stoker

I'm having a bit of a hard time, I'm working at a rest home and just found one of my closer residents passed away. I'm struggling a bit with it, but I'll get through.

Gracie Bradshaw

Thank you and yes it does seem long ago.. We are making it though the pandemic healthy and we are very thankful for that, it has made school a little more stressful but the pay off will be worth it!! 3 more semesters and ALL my hard work, effort and sacrifice will be rewarded!! I thank you a million times for helping us navigate this time! Stay Safe and healthy

Samantha Johnson

By Nancy Bussiere

**This is why we do what we do.
Thanks for being a part of our
Soroptimist club!**



**Soroptimist of Hamilton
PO Box 1012
Hamilton, MT 59840**

Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to:
<mailto:sinewsletter@gmail.com>

If you submit to any of the above locations, you are guaranteed it will reach us!