

# SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton  
Hamilton, Montana  
Northwestern Region, SIA

**Best for Women**

Volume 20 Issue No. 2 Aug 2017

## Calendar

### August

Aug 3 Bus, meeting,  
noon JB's

### September

Sep 7 Bus Meeting BJ's  
noon  
Sep 14 Speaker SOLT  
non Bjs  
Sep 21, BOD noon BJs  
Sep 28, Social, Edge  
5:30

## Table of Contents

Birthdays, pg 2  
District 4 Meeting, pg 2  
SIA interview, pg2  
SIA, pg 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7

## Aug President's Message

Happy August Champions and Heroes!

Things are certainly heating up around here.  
Our beautiful state is so hot, it's on FIRE!



We have been working on the budget, which will get out to you soon, and will be voted on at the September 7 meeting. We have added 2 new service projects. One is Women's Hygiene products and the other is International Service. We do need committee members for each of these, so if you are interested, let me know. The hygiene products committee will research where our money will be best spent and have the most impact - - i.e. food banks, SAFE, etc. The International Service committee already has a foot in the door, with Alene Tunny, so please jump into this one; it will be new and rewarding. We have also included a budget for "relief projects." Our thoughts on this, in addition to other needs, is to help women who are leaving SAFE with housing expenses. This transition is expensive for them, and of course, plays an important part in their success.

It was really rewarding to work with the Finance Committee and feel comfortable that we had a good fundraising year, and have sufficient money to fund our projects. I thank you all for your hard work!

Stay cool, play hard, have fun.

BE SURE TO WATCH THE SOLAR ECLIPSE



WE ARE  
**THE**  
CHAMPIONS

## Soroptimist International and of Americas (SIA)

About 10 days ago I got a call from Connie Baehr wanting to come to Hamilton to see and interview me. For those who do not know Connie, she was Northwestern Region Governor some time ago and has served on the Federation (SIA) level after that. Connie is an especially nice gal who was a Soroptimist in Alaska then and is now a Soroptimist in Florida and always a big donor to Soroptimist. Connie has been appointed to Donor Relations Task Force by SIA. There are only 6 members of the Task Force and each of them are interviewing a handful of Soroptimist. I was stunned and honored to be one of those chosen by SIA to be interviewed. Connie who once lived in Montana and loves to visit Montana had only 2 Montana Soroptimist to interview. My guess is that I was chosen because I have been an advocate for donating to SIA and have contributed to SIA and I also have SIA as a beneficiary in my will.

The interview was very interesting. She asked about our Club and was pleased to see that we are strong and known for our scholarships. The SIA Mission is *"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"*. In other words, education. She asked if there is anything that I think SIA could do better, about their programs, focus and direction. **So I'd like to ask any of you to tell me of anything you think SIA could change for the better.** Please call 363-6500 or email me (barbjune@gmail.com) and I will forward your concerns to Connie to be a part on this survey.

At this time, I would also like to encourage you as a club and individually to contribute to SIA. SIA has a recognition for those who donate called the Laurel Society. We have several Laurel Society members in our club: Teri Polumsky, Marion Gregr, Sandra Amsden and me. Forgive me if I missed someone. I found that the monthly giving was the easiest way for me to add to my Laurel status. Go to <https://secure.etransfer.com/EFT/custom/Soroptimist/donation480/donation1.cfm?d2org=Soroptimist&d2tool=donate> to find out the particulars and you can specify where you would like your donation to support. Thanks for reading this and enjoy some other information about SIA included in this newsletter.

Barbara June

### SAVE THE DATE

October 7&8, 2017  
District 4 Meeting  
Missoula MT

The Call to Meeting will soon be available

Mary Lou will be contacting all members and collecting registrations and \$\$\$\$

Mary Lou Amsden  
[406.544.6845](tel:406.544.6845)  
[amsdenm44@gmail.com](mailto:amsdenm44@gmail.com)



Aug. 12 Chris Jahnke  
Aug. 13 Dixie Dies  
Aug. 13 Cathy Hayes  
Aug. 13 Izzy Moerkerke  
Aug. 24 Nancy Canning

Sep. 9 Teri Polumsky  
Sep. 14 Sandra Amsden  
Sep. 17 Barb Anderson  
Sep. 22 Vicki Dawson

# Empowering Women and Girls to Reach for their Dreams

*As Soroptimists, we believe empowering women and girls to transform their lives is the best way to transform the world.*

For more than 95 years, Soroptimist International of the Americas has shown that with a financial investment toward their goals, disadvantaged and marginalized women and girls can achieve great things. Our theory of social change is when women and girls achieve their full potential, it improves the well being of families and communities—with an impact greater than any other anti-poverty intervention.

*Today, far too many girls and women are held back from achieving their full potential.*

While women represent 40 percent of the world's labor force, they hold just 1 percent of the world's wealth. And, worldwide, one in three women will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

Soroptimist is breaking down the barriers that keep women and girls from reaching their dreams. And when we help one woman, she pays it forward and creates a powerful ripple effect. She reaches out a hand to other women. She gives her children a better and more secure future while helping society as a whole.

**Soroptimist is building a world in which all women and girls achieve their dreams. We have an ambitious plan to dramatically increase the number of women and girls we reach each year, and we invite you to join us.**



**When women and girls are educated, they have opportunity and choice.**

**They are much less susceptible to the many issues that could disrupt their lives. They ...**



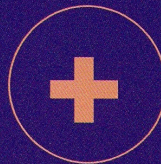
**are less likely to live in poverty**



**are less vulnerable to sex traffickers**



**are more likely to leave a domestic violence situation and not return**



**are able to access healthcare**



**raise stronger, healthier families**

# Soroptimist: A Strong History of Helping Women and Girls

Soroptimist is a global organization empowering disadvantaged women and underserved girls through access to education. Since our founding in California in 1921, we have grown to include tens of thousands of Soroptimists in 20 countries and territories. Powered by our volunteer members, each of our nearly 1,300 clubs supports community-based and global projects benefiting women and girls. Since our signature Dream Programs began, we have helped more than 30,000 women and girls reach their goals. Soroptimist's investment is paying huge dividends—not only for these individual women and girls, but for entire communities.

---

*The women and girls we work with are building healthier families, breaking the cycle of poverty, and improving the world.*

---

More and more people are beginning to realize what Soroptimists have always known—the

best way to lift up communities and nations is to educate women and girls. This growing awareness provides an unprecedented opportunity. With strong support from philanthropic individuals and organizations, we can seize this opportunity to reach more women and girls with our proven programs.

Our long history of women helping women in need, our proven outcomes, and our vast network of members and supporters in 20 countries and territories make Soroptimist uniquely positioned to reach women and girls in need around the world. We're giving them resources to help them build confidence, resilience, and perseverance in the pursuit of their dreams.

And we're just getting started. We've laid out an ambitious—but realistic—plan to reach far more women and girls.



# 2

## Putting Girls on a Path to a Brighter Future

*After decades of providing support to disadvantaged women, we asked: How can we make an even bigger impact and reach women before they find themselves in crisis? The answer, of course, is to invest in girls.*

In order to break cycles of poverty, violence, and abuse, we must empower girls with the self-confidence and knowledge they need to achieve success in their careers and personal lives. And we must show them the pathway to realize their dreams.

*A girl should be able to grow up to be anything she wants to be. But it is not enough to celebrate “girl power” without also providing examples of strength.*

It is not enough to encourage young girls to dream big without direction or skills to make those dreams a reality.

Today’s population of adolescent girls—600 million—is the largest in human history. But in spite of all the progress we’ve made toward gender equality, far too many girls—especially in disadvantaged communities—derail on the pathway to economic achievement and brighter futures. They are particularly vulnerable to teen dating violence, sex trafficking, and becoming moms while still in their teens.



After completing a rigorous research and development process, we launched *Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls*. The program targets girls in secondary school and provides them with access to professional role models, mentors, and career education. Although all girls face barriers because of their gender, we prioritize working with girls who have additional obstacles including poverty, unstable home lives, living in foster care, or teen motherhood.

---

*The Dream It, Be It curriculum launched in January 2015, and already more than 8,000 girls in 432 communities around the world have participated.*

---

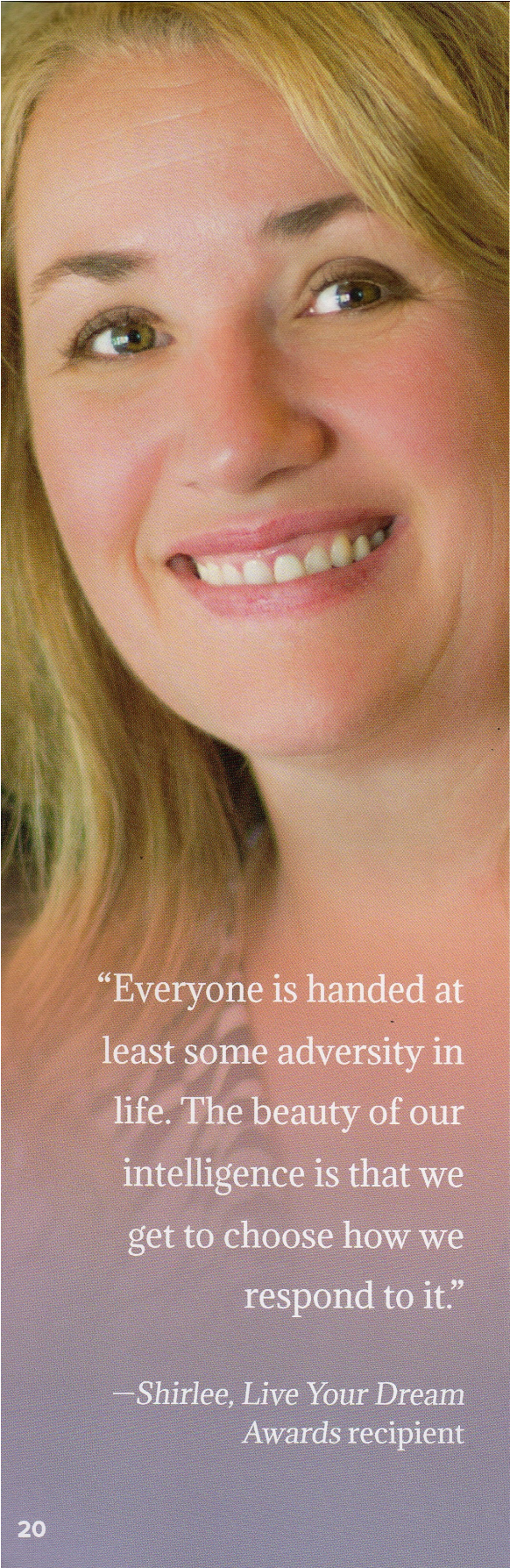
Though we are still compiling data on the program's impact, we've heard from our Soroptimist volunteers that some of the older girls are already finding success in college and employment training programs. ***And last year, 90 percent of girls who participated said they now feel more confident about their future success.***

We believe in the power of this program to move the needle. By reaching girls while they are still young, we not only can help them stay healthy and safe in the short term, but we can reduce the number of women in crisis in the future. The program's initial success fuels our determination to expand and help even more girls rise to great heights. Now that we've seen the results, we want to grow this program quickly so we can reach more of the girls who need our support.



“I learned how to be  
a better version  
of myself.”

–*Dream It, Be It*  
participant



# Your Ripple Effect: How You Can Help

*When women thrive, families, communities,  
and nations thrive.*

Respected international organizations, governments, and philanthropists worldwide are recognizing that investing in women and girls is one of the smartest ways to reduce poverty and other barriers to women's progress.

Soroptimist offers proven programs to do just that. **They are life changing for the women and girls we help and the communities where they live.** But our current pace is too slow to meet the great need. To implement the initiatives outlined previously and strengthen our organization for future success, we're seeking investment now to accelerate the pace of progress.

The entire world is counting on us, and Soroptimists are up to the challenge. We are seeking bold support to match our bold ambitions. **There is a woman out there right now who needs a little extra support to overcome challenges and get back on the path to success.** She is waiting for someone like you to reach out a hand and help her up toward a better life. And, investing in her dreams is one of the smartest ways to build a better world for all of us.

We are eager to hear your feedback on the plans we have outlined here and to discuss your role in helping us achieve these ambitious goals. You are part of a nearly 100-year tradition of Soroptimists helping women and girls achieve their dreams.

---

***We look forward to partnering with you  
on these initiatives to reach even more  
disadvantaged women and underserved  
girls in the years to come.***

---

“Everyone is handed at least some adversity in life. The beauty of our intelligence is that we get to choose how we respond to it.”

—Shirlee, Live Your Dream Awards recipient

**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!