



SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 22 Issue No.10 Apr 2020

Calendar

April

2 – Mtg BJ's—nominations due
9 – Mtg ZOOM—Election of
2020 Officers & Speaker
15—ZOOM Finance Mtg noon
16—ZOOM Board Mtg
23 – ZOOM Social

May

7 – Meeting
14 – Meeting
21 – Board
28 – Social

Table of Contents

COVID-19 Update	pg 2
NWR Website	pg 2
Birthdays	pg 2
See's Candy	pg 3
Challenge	pg 3
Fundraiser Update	pg 4
ZOOM Info	pg 4
Finance Meeting	pg 4
COVID-19 Response	pg 5
SIH Board nominees	pg 6
4th Grade	pg 7
LYD Thank you	pg 8

April President's Message

Well, sort of President! Of all the things I thought I would say in my final message, I never, ever 9ish months!! We are adaptable and flexible.



It is with sadness, relief, confidence, and hope I pass the remainder of my Presidency to Anne and Teri.

Sadness for not completing a tenure, and for having this indivisible thing that is with us.

Relief for knowing the club is in good, capable, hands – and minds.

Confidence in knowing we will get through this, we will have changed, we will have learned. This is bumpy, it does have a beginning, middle, and end

Honor for being part of the International Soroptimist of Hamilton, for being your President.

Thank you for your confidence, support, notes, friendship and being you.

President Dixie



COVID-19 Update

As you know, I am the information officer for the Ravalli County COVID-19 Incident Management Team [ICT]. Dr. Carol Calderwood, Ravalli County Public Health Officer is the Incident Commander; and Deputy Incident Commander is Fire Chief Brad Mohn. Fifteen of us represent multiple organizations: towns, emergency medical services, hospital, Sheriff's Office, Police Department, first responders, and Commissioners.

Everyone, except me, has taken on this assignment along with their current jobs. We meet at least once a day, sometimes more, sometimes 7 days a week. Our objective is provide the best communication, support, and education to reduce the spread and mortality from COVID-19 in Ravalli County. The Ravalli County COVID-19 Incident Management Team is a dedicated, professional, hardworking, and caring group of our citizens to help us all through this. Not all counties have that kind of organization and cooperation. We do. It is something to be very proud.

The advice is simple – distance. There is no cure, there is no vaccine. Distancing works. Do it, do it now, repeat. Wash your hands, wipe handles and knobs. Do essential outings – medical, food, fuel, walks in the woods – with distancing. Don't risk being exposed, or possibly exposing someone else.

Factual information is a must. Contact the County emergency operation center, 406-375-6650, 7 days a week, 8 am to 6pm.

The Ravalli and Missoula Counties and state – Montana COVID-19 web pages are great. Take care my dear friends.

Dixie Dies
Information Officer
Ravalli County COVID-19 Incident Management Team

NWR Website

Are you registered on the Northwestern Region's Members-Only website at: www.soroptimistnwr.org to be able to view important documents and timely information?

If the answer is no, please take a few minutes to register on the website. You create your own unique password to access the site. Your membership is then confirmed.

We have recently updated our website security, and all Northwestern Region members will need to be registered to view documents in links.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the NWR website team at support@soroptimistnwr.org



Chocolate Eases Sheltering in Place!!!

Sheltering in place will be much easier with chocolate! Leftover Valentine mini's are available to our members. We are selling them at the reduced price of \$5.00 each. Here are the instructions to purchase:

Call Mary Lyn (the candy is at her warehouse, Big Sky Promotions, 315 N. 1st Street, behind Sherwin Williams Paint Store) 406-360-6279, if no answer call Ron at 406-360-4238. They will need to let you in as they are closed due to Covid-19.

Pay on line at sihamilton.org with these instructions: go to sihamilton.org, click on the donate button on the menu banner across the page scroll down on the left to Single Donation, click Yellow Donate Button – this will take you to pay pal After you pay go back to the website and complete the form with name and email and under Options chose See's Candy
OR: pay by cash or check when you pick up.

Our apology for the inconvenience. We are trying to comply with social distancing. If you have questions or can't reach Mary Lyn or Ron, call Marcia Babowicz at 406-369-0915



Sister Optimists Challenge

I want to put a challenge out there to my “Sister Optimists.” Like me, many of us are not feeling any financial impact from the current situation. So...I challenge all of you who are able to donate your stimulus money to Soroptimists, or a worthy cause to help those who this will impact. My money will be donated to SIH for use in providing scholarships next year. With the cancellation of our major fundraising event for scholarships, we will be unable to provide anywhere near the level of support to women in our community to continue their educational aspirations.



Let's put our money where our mouths are and make a difference for someone less fortunate.

Saundra

AN EVENING WRAPPED IN CHOCOLATE UPDATE

Because of the Coronavirus we have had to change the date of the Chocolate Evening. Right now we have scheduled it for September 17th. We only hope that things will be better, and we can have this great event. We must have it, or we will not have funds for our scholarships. I assume that this will now become a fall event which leaves the Spring to have a new project for Soroptimists. Stay tuned for any new information. The hard part is done ... we have our Live Auction items and ideas for our Silent Auction items. We will start up again in July to firm up things and have a great successful event in September!! Stay safe, wash your hands and don't touch your face!

-Patti Martin

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a finance committee meeting on April 15th via ZOOM at noon.



zoom

to our next meeting. For as long as we can't go out, we can still meet. Zoom is an easy, free way to see and talk to each other, both for business and pleasure.

You'll get an agency email a few days before the meeting, then 15 minutes before it starts, you'll receive another email with the link and password.

This worked really well for our March Social. Everyone had a great time. It also worked well for our March 2nd meeting.

Get ready for our next meeting by downloading the zoom app now. <https://zoom.us/download>.

COVID-19 RESPONSE LOCAL RESOURCES AND WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



For more information and to donate go to hamiltonbrf.com

The Hamilton Business Relief Fund (HBRF) was created to provide financial assistance to local Hamilton, MT businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The HBRF was set up by the Hamilton Downtown Association (HDA) to preserve and assist our local businesses and hedge their ability to re-employ members of our community through the economic impacts of COVID-19. The HBRF is open to all Hamilton businesses, not just those in downtown. Donated funds will be held by HDA and distributed directly to local businesses. Potential uses include payment of mortgage or rent, utilities, insurance, or other business-related expenses. The intent is that these funds will help local businesses stay afloat during the COVID-19 crisis so that once this is all over they can continue operations and bring back employees who may have been laid off.

MSU/Ravalli Extension Service Newsletter

They have an excellent newsletter. Ideas for interesting “virtual experiences”, local food and financial resources, local noon webinars, support groups, ways to give in our community, COVID-19 resources, etc.

Sign up for the newsletter at <http://ravalli.msuextension.org/>.

Teddy Bear Scavenger Hunt

It's time to get that teddy bear or other “stuffie” out of the attic!!!! The scavenger hunt is something fun to do while they are having to practice social distancing. People put teddy bears and other stuffed animals in windows, on porches, in trees and on parked cars. Then, children go for walks or drives with their families and try to spot as many as they can.

Howling for Essential Workers

Our community has joined in the national movement to step outside each night at 8pm and howl—or cheer—in support of essential workers who are on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19.

Candidates for the SIH 2020-21 Board



We have a complete slate of nominations. This doesn't mean you can't still put your name in to compete for a position if you are so inclined. Below is the list of candidate that will, at this time, be running for board positions.



As the chair of the Nominations Committee, I am looking for a few good women to fill the positions on the 2020-21 Board. The positions are:

- President – Teri Polumsky (graciously agreed to step up to the plate to fill an unexpected vacancy), *perk of the job* – your hotel room and meal package at the District and Region Conferences are paid for by the club.
- VP – Maggie Barber responsible for membership and speakers, assists President as needed, fills in for the Presidents when unavailable, “ascends” to the President in the following year, this is a three year commitment as they will be VP, President, and Immediate Past President (a voting board position)
- Treasurer – Sue Smith – takes care of the finances for the club
- Asst. Treasurer – Vikki Bell – assists the treasurer as needed, fills in when the treasurer is unavailable
- Recording Secretary – Nancy Bussiere – records and posts the minutes of the general and board meetings
- Corresponding Secretary – Robin Clute – incoming and outgoing mail, checks our PO Box weekly, distributes mail as indicated
- Delegate – Saundra Amsden – keeps track of happenings at the Region level, informs the club of elections, conferences, and meetings at the District and Region level, *perk of the job* – your hotel room and meal package at the District and Region Conferences are paid for by the club. It really isn't difficult, as I can attest.
- Alt Delegate – Mary Lyn – assists the Delegate, responsible for coordinating the Area Meetings, which will be in Missoula this next year.
- 2 yr Director – Marcia Babowicz – voting position on the board, not much else unless you want to do more
- 1 yr Director – Joan Collingwood (was the 2yr Director, so she “ascended” to this position)

Please contact me if you would like to hold any of the positions listed above. We can't do it if we don't do it!

Saundra Amsden

Sismail2001-sih@yahoo.com

406-381-3526

4th GRADE

As you all know, our schools have closed to help prevent the spread of the covid19 virus. As a result, we didn't get much time to work with the kids this month.

I was able to work with them twice before the school closures. As usual, the kids were so much fun. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our monthly art project. It was going to be a kaleidoscope kite. It wouldn't fly, but the kids would have been able to make a pattern of color out of one inch squares.



While out walking a few days ago, I ran across Aiden, one of the boys I work with on math. He was outside, jumping on a trampoline with about four other kids just down the street from my house. He was really excited to see me, and told me he really misses school. I was thrilled to see him and chat for a while.

Wish I had more I could share with you, but like the rest of you, I have been a shut in for several weeks now.

I hope we can get back to school before the end of the year so we can see the kids and, hopefully, have another party!

Saundra



A must read ...
Thank You Letter from LYD Recipient

This letter is from our LYD 1st place recipient. Bridgette also received a \$1500 award for NWR.

Dear Soroptimist International of Hamilton Members,

Empowerment is a word often used in Social Work when it comes to helping individuals change their lives. Merriam Webster defines it as to promote the self-actualization or influence of (in terms of the women's movement). Or, in its most basic terms, to simply enable. I couldn't think of a better word to define the purpose driving this amazing group of women. Helping empower women to better their lives through scholarships.

Thank you for empowering me on my journey to live my dreams. It was an honor spending my evening with you the other night. The experience is one that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. The influence of women, who simply refuse to give up on their dreams and actively help fellow women live out their dreams, will always be a powerful drive in my life.

A simple thank you would not and could not be enough for empowering my dream path. Instead, I am going to promise that I will always follow my dreams and I will help other women along the way discover and follow theirs. I will work to empower women following the example set forth. With the driving belief that it doesn't matter how many times you must start over, you will, with persistence, accomplish your dreams. We can and will make our community, state, nation, and world a better place.

Starting over is frightening, but remembering that you aren't starting over with nothing, you are starting over with experience. This experience of what works and doesn't is a powerful tool. I want to leave you with a quote from the movie *Hope Floats*:

"Beginnings are scary, endings are usually sad, but it is the middle that counts the most. You need to remember that when you find yourself at the beginning. Just give hope a chance to float up." ~Birdee Pruitt

Just begin, because the middle is where you truly live your dreams. When you accomplish one goal, it doesn't mean that you are done. Wish upon the stars, dance in the rain, and always move forward. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Langley

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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!