

# Salty Soroptimist News

## September, 2023

### President Rita's Message



I am proud to be your President this year and looking forward to new friends, members, and activities. Thanks to all members that were able to attend our Annual Planning Retreat on August 16th. Thanks to Cheri Richardson for hosting the lovely location. The food as always was such a great variety and great tasting!

We were able to induct a new member, Rachel Woodhouse. We also had two new members in attendance, Michelle Jackson and Kathy Margaritis which were both inducted at our June meeting. All will be a great asset to our Club and are excited to roll up

their sleeves and go to work. Each signed up for several committees.

I'm excited about this new year. I want to remind that everyone is invited to all meetings, including the Board Meeting. It is a great way to understand the workings of the Club. Most meetings will be also zoomed if you are not able to attend. Last night we had two members who were out of town, Donna Visco and Angela Yarborough, attended the meeting by zoom. It was great to have their participation. We had a great speaker so everyone could hear the whole meeting and interactions.

I have made a couple of decisions about our year. I am asking individual members to take a month and plan a Program meeting. I feel that brings more of the personalities of our members into our meetings. You can pick a date that is planned, like the Thanksgiving Dinner, and just make the

arrangements for the dinner and decorate and plan the agenda and be responsible for all the details. Or you can pick a month that doesn't have a topic assigned and find a speaker or activity you would like to have the Club participate in and make all the arrangements. I hope we have some great new ideas by designing our Program meetings this way.

I also have asked to have our fundraiser be a Competition Trivia Night. I'm hoping it gives us an opportunity to involve more people in the community, and will be a fun night for all whether you have a team or not!

More will be coming on all these topics.

Hope you are squeezing in the last of your summer plans and enjoying reaping the rewards of your gardens.

*Rita Offrett, President  
2023-2024*

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SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

## Soroptimist International Convention in Dublin, Ireland

By Carolyn Roberts & Pat Murdoch

Four members from our Club attended the Soroptimist International Dublin Ireland Convention in July. Those attending were Cheri Richardson, Carolyn Roberts, Pat Murdoch and Rita Offrett. A logo change was announced by Soroptimist International. They called it an emblem refresh. They said the change was to more accurately represent what we intend to focus on in the next 100 years, which is working with the United Nations toward sustainable development goals: gender equal-



ity, human rights, environment, peace and security, and education. There were lots of questions about the refreshed logo.

SIA has asked us to use the SIA logo (the blue "S" logo), instead of the SI logo.



They announced that the President's Appeal has been changed and introduced as a new Soroptimist International Foundation. In the past, the President's Appeal has been a focus chosen by the SI president during her term and has existed since 1981. It is being replaced with The Soroptimist International Foundation which was established this year. We are still learning what this will mean to us,

but they will still be asking for donations on December 10th which will now be called The Soroptimist International Foundation Day. This day will encourage others around the world to get involved in raising funds and donating them to the foundation. They say moving to a charitable foundation will enable Soroptimist International to have more flexibility while having more control at the same time.

We now have FIVE Federations - Soroptimist of the Americas, Soroptimist of Ireland and Great Britain, Soroptimist of Asian Pacific, Soroptimist of Europe, and now Soroptimist of Africa. This was the first international convention to be held since Africa became the fifth federation. It was fun to see the enthusiasm of the African members at the convention.

Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chair of the Elders - an independent group of global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela working for peace, justice, human rights, and a sustainable planet. Her speech was "Women Leaders must step up and lead as never before." She was very powerful and a very dynamic speaker. She spoke on climate crisis. "Climate change is a man-made problem that requires a feminist solution." She also talked about Project Dandelion Initiative, a women-led global climate justice campaign. Dandelions are the only flower that blooms on every continent. It has one goal - to seed more dandelions. The analogy is that we women be dandelions that spread awareness to all ends of the earth.

Jim Gamble, CEO, Ineqe Safeguarding Group, spoke on "It is not about the technology." He stated that technology is great, but we have to safeguard ourselves and especially our children. He talked about the predatory cases he had worked on and shared how we can talk with our children about this issue for them online. He said he wants all children, especially to know there is hope. He said too many of the children pulled into the dark web by these predators then commit suicide. He stated the opportunity is when there is a case in the news to talk to our children in the third party by asking if anyone, they know at school has sent nude pictures of themselves that are now all over their school. He wants us to tell them there is hope and to contact the authorities in your area. This makes it easier if it is a child, you know that has become involved can talk to you about it and get the authorities to clean up the web for that child and they will know there is HOPE.

These were just a few of the great international and U.N. speakers we have at the Soroptimist International Conventions.



## Annual Planning Meeting

by Carma Ingram

We held our annual Planning Meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> at Cheri's clubhouse. There was great food and an opportunity to visit with everyone attending. The planning meeting is used to review our programs with the members and provide the platform for us to gear up for this coming year's activities.

There was a review of our service programs from this past year with plans for new ones in this coming year. We talked about Live Your Dream, Dream It Be It, Breakfast with Santa, Membership and our upcoming grant from SIA for \$3,000 towards books for girls who graduated from Horizonte and Granite and now are attending college. There was a thorough review of our finances by our Treasurer,

Donna Schultz. The Peaks to Plains Region Conference coming up this Spring will be held in Salt Lake City, so our club will be involved this event. Rita announced a big Fund Raiser for this year which will be a team competition Trivia Night to be held in the spring. Members attending signed up to work on the various committees and Rita will fol-

low up with members for additional sign-ups where needed.



## Live Your Dream

by Teresa Just

### Applications Accepted between August 1 and November 15

Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards 2023 – 2024, Education & Training Awards for Women

Applications accepted between August 1 and November 15, 2023.

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program is a unique education award for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. This program proves cash awards to women who are working to better their lives through additional schooling and skills training.

#### YOU CAN APPLY If:

You are the primary financial support for yourself and your dependents. Dependents can include children, spouse, partner, siblings and/or parents.

You have financial need.

You are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

You are motivated to achieve your education and career goals.

You have not previously been the recipient of a Soroptimist Women's Opportunity or Live Your Dream Award.

Do not have a graduate degree.

You are not a Soroptimist member, an employee of Soroptimist International of the Americas or immediate family of either.

All members can help by sharing information on your social media, posting the flyer at locations you

frequent (with approval from the establishment), or provide directly with women who meet the qualifications. A flyer will be provided for members to share personally or on your Social Media. Contact co-chairs, Teresa Just and Zulie Langarica with questions.

Other important dates:

November 15: Application deadline for club-level awards

February 1: District-level judging deadline

February 15: Region-level judging deadline

March 15: Federation-level judging deadline



## Dream It Be It

by Donna Visco

This year we plan on delivering another exciting and engaging **Dream It Be It** program, for young and aspiring girls in our Horizonte and Granite High schools. Our program will continue to focus on Career Aspirations and Development. Topics Include Setting and Achieving Goals, Overcoming Obstacles and setbacks, Financial Literacy and Career Speakers based on the student's interests. Over the next couple of weeks, we will firm up the program and ask that you volunteer to support some of the sessions. Your experience, mentorship and connection with these girls is what makes the program come to life.



## Welcome New Member . . . Kyra Crane



I grew up in Park City Utah. I attended college up at Utah State in Logan. I have lived in Salt Lake for the last 6 Years. I'm currently engaged. My fiancé's name is Kevin. Together we have a dog named Ares, and two cats, Minerva and Sirius.

I originally went to school for Biochemistry. I was a year away from my degree and realized that I hated

it. I was way more of a people person to be stuck in a lab. It actually took one of my really good friends saying that I would be a great fit in sales for me to take the leap. I put in one application to a dealership in Salt Lake and got a call for the interview 15 minutes later. Taking that job was the best thing that I ever did for myself. I met my fiancé and continued to grow my career in sales. I have since switched to vacation sales because traveling is something that I am really passionate about and felt like I could better relate to the people that I would talk to every day.

In my free time I enjoy cooking, and reading. I am really passionate about wine and I love to learn about them, I even have my level 1 Somalia. Kevin and I enjoy hiking

*I am really passionate about wine and I love to learn about them, I even have my Level 1 Somalia.*

and trying new restaurants.

My favorite book is the Great Gatsby My favorite movie is Casablanca I love all music, but I normally listen to Indy.

I joined Soroptimist because I have grown up involved in the organization. My grandma Jan has been a member for as long as I can remember. I am really passionate about women helping women and I think the world will continue to evolve and become a better place as long as women continue to contribute and have a say in it.

## Welcome New Member . . . **Michelle Jackson**



I grew up in Taylorsville where I attended Taylorsville High School. My husband and I bought our first house in Taylorsville in 2014 then we moved to West Jordan in 2020. I've been married for almost 11 years, and I have one daughter who is almost 21 and one stepdaughter who is 24. My husband has raised my daughter since she was 9. My stepdaughter has a baby who is 2 ½ and they live in Florida. My daughter is currently a student at the University of Utah and will be starting her junior year this fall. She is majoring in Strategic Communications with a minor in Business and works at a marketing firm. My husband runs a landscaping business part-time and recently started a new business distributing vape products to various businesses across Salt Lake County.

I never really knew what I wanted to be when I grew up (and still am not sure haha) so I've kind of just

gone with what comes my way. I've been very blessed to have a successful career with Comcast where I've had the opportunity to learn different areas of the business; from call centers, to HR, to customer experience to technical operations and retail. I believe it comes down to being willing to work hard, continuous learning, a focus on personal growth and development and having a positive attitude.

I work for Comcast and am part of their HR Service Delivery team where I monitor quality for employees who handle incoming phone calls and chats. I've worked there for 12 years and have held various leadership positions throughout my time.

On a personal side, I first got pregnant when I was only 17 and ended up having triplet girls. We gave them up for adoption to a wonderful family and I was able to keep in touch and get to know them as they got older. They will be 23 this year and I keep in touch with each of them. One lives in Provo and manages a pizza parlor, one lives in St. George and works in her mom's shop and one is serving a mission in Montana. It has been great to see them each grow into their own person. They also have a relationship with my daughter, which is awesome to see.

I love to read, watch movies and workout. I walk every day, strength train 3 times a week and

*I walk every day and strength train 3 times a week ...*

attend an Orange Theory class once a week. We also like to hike and go to the lake as a family. I also love cats and have 2 at home, both rescues. I used to feed a community of cats on the Jordan River trail until we were able to get them mostly adopted out. I try to volunteer to help community cats whenever I can. I love so many books that it's hard to pick just one so I will share some of my favorite authors instead:

Jodi Picoult, she has an amazing way of writing about different moral issues from different perspectives.

Judith McNaught and Lisa Kleypas, two of my favorite historical romance novelists.

I joined Soroptimist because I enjoy giving back to my community and as a single mother myself at one point I can relate to what these women go through. I would have loved to know about a program like this when my daughter was younger, and I sometimes struggled to provide for her. Being able to help others in that situation means a lot to me. I have attended various events the last few years with my mom and Rita and it has been a joy to be a part of. I look forward to getting to know the other members and am excited to share in this journey of giving back!

## Welcome New Member . . . *Kathy Margaritas*



I recently retired from Granite Connections High School where I worked with the young parent.

Reading is a favorite hobby and cooking sometimes. I'm looking forward to getting back to some hobbies that have been neglected... Yoga (I used to teach), swimming, watercolor painting and even just sketching to get back into it. I like to sing and want to relearn piano. Swing dancing was a real favorite in my single years. My husband and I like hiking in nature, going to plays and attending music concerts. We've tried a little cross-country skiing and some ballroom dancing, but both need lots more practice. I love spending time with my family.

*My husband I like hiking in nature, going to plays and attending music concerts.*

I grew up in a family with 2 sisters (I'm the oldest girl) and we have one older brother. My mom is 88. I grew up in Brigham City until 5<sup>th</sup> grade when we moved to Littleton Colorado for one year. Then moved back to Utah in the Bountiful area. After high school I was a nanny in Connecticut for 6 months. After U of U apt. living, we lived in Bountiful area while my children were young until a divorce. Later we lived mostly in West Jordan during my children's schooling years. About 7 years ago, I bought a house in West Valley/Taylorville area and live there now with my new husband. In my current family, I have five children (3 with spouses) and 10 grandchildren (ages 4 – 20 years old). They all live locally except for my daughter in Boulder CO and her daughter back East in college. We enjoy getting together for birthdays and holidays. Plus, some happy opportunities with the grandkids while babysitting or Facetiming.





## Welcome New Member . . . Rachel Woodhouse



I have been married for 17 years to Danny. We have two kids, Ellie is 14 and Ryker is 11. We recently got a puppy, an Aussie Doodle, and her name is Mayzie. I'm the third of six children, and I have a great, close relationship with all my siblings. I grew up in Kennewick, Washington. From there I moved to Utah to attend college, and I've been here ever since! When we were first married, my husband and I lived in Lehi, and then we moved to Saratoga Springs in 2015.

My hobbies are riding dirt bikes, going camping and knitting. My favorite books, movies, music, and shows are: Jane Eyre and Gone with the Wind; Shawshank Redemption, Fiddler on the Roof, Steel Magnolias; Country, Broadway, Pop, Late 60's music... basically a lot of different kinds; Ted Lasso, Schitts Creek

Prior to joining my current company, CHG Healthcare, a medical staffing company, I had been in the Real Estate industry for 10 years. In 2015 I was at a conference for women in leadership at the University of Utah and happen to sit by one of the Vice President of Sales at CHG. We got to talking and she asked if I would be interested in switching industries and companies...and I was! So I joined CHG Healthcare in 2016 and learned all about medical staffing and credentialing and licensing for providers. Here I am 7 years later as a Sr. Manager, leading a team of 20 managers and coordinators providing credentialing, payor enrollment and licensing services for external clients, and learning and growing every day!

I decided to join Soroptimist of Salt Lake because I see so many stories from different Facebook groups I'm in, as well as from personal experience with friends and families, where women find themselves in an unplanned situation where they need to provide for themselves and their families, and they are unprepared. I would love to help women who find themselves needing to support their families and are wanting additional education and resources to be able to do that. I was strongly encouraged to be a stay-at-home mom from my family and religious upbringing, but I have personally found that having a career and de-

*My hobbies are riding dirt bikes, going camping, and knitting!*

veloping myself professionally has been incredibly rewarding and I want to provide any help and advice I can to other women who would also like to pursue this path



## Fall District I & II Meeting

### Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Evanston, Wyoming – Holiday Inn Express

District I & II Fall Meeting is being held in Evanston, Wyoming September 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 9 am. It is only for one day (Saturday) so easy to get to. Members can go Saturday morning and return Saturday night or stay over Friday and/or Saturday night. It is not just for leadership. It is valuable for every member to increase knowledge and workings of Soroptimist.

The cost is \$80 and includes lunch, dinner and materials. Your registration needs to be post-marked by September 15 or register online for a fee. There are special meetings for Treasurers and Presidents at 8 am on Saturday morning. General session is 9:00 – 5:00 General session (includes lunch).

You will learn about the Four pillars of Soroptimist - Impact (Programs); Philanthropy (Fundraising); Engagement (Membership); Recognition (Public Awareness). We will also learn about these topics: Celebrating Success, Leadership summit overview, SI Convention Highlights, Global Advocacy, and an Update on Region By-laws.

Saturday night there will be a dinner at 5:00 pm. If you want to reserve a room and stay either Friday night and/or Saturday night, they are available at the Holiday Inn Express in Evanston. The meeting will be held in a different location, the "Machine Shop." There is further information in the document Secretary, Cheri Richardson sent out right after the Annual Planning Meeting, or you can call President Rita Offrett, or District Director, Carolyn Roberts.



Get registered and come ready for a great time!



## In Loving Memory ... Joan Cromer and Laura Lee Madsen

One of our longtime members of Soroptimist International of the Americas is Joan Cromer who passed away at age 91 on August 8th in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska where she resided. Joan was a past president of Soroptimist International where she traveled the world on behalf of Soroptimist. She will always be remembered for her kindness and intellect. She was a great contributor to Soroptimist International.

Laura Lee Madsen was a longtime member of our club. Laura Lee died May 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meet and mingle Celebration of Life at The Barn on Wheeler Farm, 6351 South 900 East, Murray from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on September 9th. A light lunch will be served.



*Celebrating the life of*  
**NANA**

Saturday, 9th of September  
from 11:00 to 2:00 pm  
-Save the date | details to come -

## Soroptimist of Salt Lake

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Salt Lake City, UT 84157-1021  
www.sislc.org  
Email: roffrett@hotmail.com



## Congratulations Zulie & Yeu!

On July 22nd our member Zulie Langarica married her sweetheart Yeu Martinez. Congratulations to the beautiful couple!



## September Calendar & Member News

### *Many Happy Returns*

*Kyra Crane—August 2*  
*Barbara Rosner—August 5*  
*Janis Nash—August 14*  
*Ann Treacy—September 29*  
*Michelle Jackson—Sept. 30*



### *Mark Your Calendars ...*

9/6—Board Retreat at Rita's  
6-8 pm (all members welcome)

9/23—District I & II Meeting  
Evanston, Wy.

10/4—Board Meeting at Rita's  
6-7 pm (all members welcome)

10/18—Program Meeting  
Location TBA

## 2023-2-24 Officers/Board

**President—Rita Offrett**  
Email: roffrett@hotmail.com

**President Elect—Barbara Rosner**  
Email: barbara@allthingsperuvian.com

**Treasurer—Donna Schultz**  
Email: chrisdtls@msn.com

**Treasurer Elect—Loretta Peterson**  
Email: loretta\_peterson@premierinc.com

**Director at Large—Angela Yarborough**  
Email: ayarborough2021@outlook.com

**Secretary—Cheri Richardson**  
Email: crichar0429@gmail.com

**Past President—Carma Ingram**

**Parliamentarian—Cathy Stevens**

**Delegate—Pat Murdoch**  
Teresa Just