

SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 22 Issue No. 1 July 2019

Calendar

All meetings noon BJ's

July

- 11 – Meeting
- 18 – Board
- 25 – Social – Anne Brown's house
- 27 Daly Days fundraiser

August

- 1 – Meeting
- 8 – Board
- 22 – Social

September

- 5 – Meeting
- 12 – Meeting
- 19 – Board
- 26 – Social

Table of Contents

- Bio Norma Twyman, pg 4
- Bio New Member Nancy Bussieir, pg 4
- Bio Gini Rogers, pg4
- Birthdays, pg 4
- Club membership, pg 2
- Daly Days fundraiser, pg 2
- Installation of officers, pg 3
- Meeting dates 2019-2020, pg 5
- Ravalli Republic article, pg 6,7

July President's Message

LIFE IS GOOD, July 2019



Thank you all for the warm president welcome. What better way to start a year than to have nine new members the past few months – how awesome is that: Anne Brown, Debbie Sesa-Gantz, Julie Fryberger, Jeanette DeMinck, Nancy Bussiere, Lori Matz, Marie 'Blue' Taylor, Catharine (Katy) Bosio [brand new], and Sunny Stone. Welcome Ladies. You had a choice of a volunteer organization to join – you chose us.

At the induction...Teri – the phrase 'don't quit your day job', certainly doesn't apply to your talent as an MC, it was perfect – blast from the past and all! Marcia – and Babo – your place is also perfect. Thank you for extending it to Soroptimist again! And again!!!! – for the first terrifically successful Glamping retreat.

I chose my theme 'Life Is Good', because 1 – I **believe** it is, 2 – it is too easy to go down a cloudy, bleak trail and forget to see the good there is around us, and not so easy sometimes to get off that trail, and 3 – I have a whole bunch of Life Is Good t-shirts, so there must have been something in my inner being! :)

I also believe in our community and volunteering for it. It's ours and it's good. In that realm, I'm fairly involved – Lions, Chamber Ambassadors, Special Olympics, Ravalli County Credit Union, and Soroptimist.

For years, I have sat on the sidelines in Soroptimist.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1 July President's message

I have always participated, but on the sidelines. Last year, I decided to change that and do the officer route. During that time of 'participation' I never did have a reason to know about processes and policies. Well, I do now!!!! That being said, I am learning along with two other new dynamic officers – Anne Brown, VP; and Debbie Sesa-Gantz secretary. We will be learning together. There are going to be things I don't know about or forgot. It will ok. That is where you all come in, to help us.

We have an incredible group: diverse, opinionated, talented, fun, supportive, and connected. It is our greatest strengths.

Other things:

1. The best way to get in touch with me is text, 381-0922 [or call]. Either Anne or I will do our best to be available to you.
2. Anne and I will be best buddies this year. I will include her on all emails, texts, calls, etc.
3. I usually check my email in the morning, not so much in the evening [see #1]
4. Always get back with me if you see something that I have missed, should have done differently, and *especially* if you have a concern.

Goals: I really haven't thought about it, I'll work on that. For now, I would like us to keep doing what we do, being known for who we are and what we do, look for better ways of doing business, be open to change – or at least take a look at it! :), have fun, and 'do what you love and love what you do'.

Dixie

Club Membership 2019-2020 of 47

Congratulations and welcome to the new members joining last year! Anne Brown, Katy Bisio, Nancy Bussiere, Jeanette DeMinck, Julie Freyberger, Lori Mattz, Gini Rogers, Sunny Stone, Debbie Sesa-Grantz, Marie (blue) Taylor, and Norma Twyman . Welcome back Virginia Chaffin. Dropping are Kristin Ashcraft, Pat Contrell, Marion Crow-Greg, Vicki Dawson, Constance Delaney, Catjie Hayes, Shelane Hughson, and Patrice Promack.

Daly Days fundraiser

We are doing sluchies for a fundraiser during Daly Days, July 27th. Watch for details!
Call Sue Smith for details



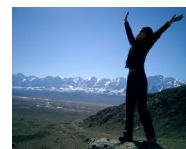


Installation Of Officers 2019-2020

Congrats President Dixie
and officers



Life is good!!!!



Welcome & Bio for new member Nancy Bussiere

I have lived in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota for 59 years. I worked for 35 years as a Senior Litigation Paralegal at Dorsey & Whitney Law Firm in downtown Minneapolis. We have two sons, Rhys (31) in Wilsonville, Oregon, and Max (29) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When we retired in 2017, my husband Greg and I spent the next two years traveling the world full time, nearly always through AIRBNB, and visited 19 amazing countries. We were introduced to the Bitterroot Valley by Lori Matz, another new Soroptimist member and our long-time friend, and chose this beautiful area for our new base. We are building a home near the Hamilton Golf Course, hope to move in by Christmas, and look forward to becoming active members of the community.

Nancy



Member Bio for Norma Twyman

I have a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan and have worked for Cigna Healthcare in small business sales, and have also worked for the government as an auditor for the Office of Labor Management Standards. I lived in PA for 20 years where I have volunteered for 15 of those years within the school systems in various capacities, including research.

I have 2 girls, both in college, and a husband who is semi-retired working as a Neuroscience consultant.

I moved to Darby last September and just love the area and people.

I play tennis and have recently developed a passion for American Mah Jongg.

I look forward to learning more about our Bitterroot area, its residents, and participating within the Soroptimist organization.

Norma



Member Bio Gini Rogers

Born in London, England,
Married 49 years so far.
Graduated from London
University, BA Degree.
6 children. Antique dealer
for 40 years. Love Montana and it's
people, I am never leaving.

Gini



Life is Good!!!



Jul. 8	Vikki Bell
Jul. 8	Patti Martin
Jul. 15	Shelane Hughson
Jul 17	Sonya Bitterman
Aug. 13	Dixie Dies
Aug. 13	Cathy Hayes
Aug. 13	Izzy Moerkerke
Aug. 24	Nancy Canning

2019-2020 MEETING DATES



2019

July

- 11 – Meeting
- 18 – Board
- 25 – Social – Anne Brown's house

August

- 1 – Meeting
- 8 – Board
- 22 – Social

September

- 5 – Meeting
- 12 – Meeting
- 19 – Board
- 26 – Social

October

- 3 – Meeting
- 5 – *District 4 Conference Kalispell*
- 10 – Meeting
- 17 – Board
- 24 – Social

November

- 7 – Meeting
- 14 – Meeting
- 21 – Board
- 28 – NO SOCIAL, Thanksgiving, unless you want to get out of the house!

December

- 5 – Meeting
- 12 – Meeting, Christmas Party
- 19 – Board
- 26 – NO SOCIAL

2020

January

- 2 – Meeting
- 9 – Meeting
- 16 – Board
- 23 – Social

February

- 6 – Meeting
- 13 – Meeting
- 20 – Board
- 27 – Social

March

- 5 – Meeting
- 12 – Meeting
- 19 – Board
- 26 – Social

April

- 2 – Meeting
- 9 – Meeting
- 16 – Board
- 23 – Social

May

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

June

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



Soroptimist volunteers make a difference in Corvallis classroom

MICHELLE MCCONNAHA
MICHELLE.MCCONNAHA@RAVALLIREPUBLIC.COM

It is the end of the school year in the Bitterroot Valley and teachers are looking back to thank those that helped with education.

Liz Jameson taught 21 students in fourth grade at Corvallis Primary School this year and is singing the praises of five dedicated Soroptimist volunteers who made a difference in her classroom all year.

Saundra Amsden, a Soroptimist since the late 1990s, has a heart for education and a goal of getting the Soroptimists physical presence out into the community and outside of Hamilton.

"We seem to be very focused on Hamilton," Amsden said. "We give many dollars in scholarships and that's great but there's

See **SOROPTIMISTS**, Page A3



MICHELLE MCCONNAHA - Ravalli Republic

Soroptimists Alene Tunny (from left), Saundra Amsden, Marylou Amsden, Robin Clute and Sue Macmeeken adopted Liz Jameson's fourth-grade class and volunteered several hours each week throughout the school year.

Soroptimists

Continued

no physical presence. I thought classrooms need help. Kids have a lot of stressors and a lot of things going on in their lives and I know the teachers are stressed out."

The project began a couple of years ago with the Soroptimists donating three backpacks full of school supplies specific for student needs in Jameson's class.

"It's amazing," Amsden said. "Without the backpack, the supplies alone can cost over \$100 for decent quality items. Some parents can't afford that. We also donated over the next few years and then when Sue Macmeeken became president I said I wanted us to adopt a classroom."

Amsden thought up using the skills sets that members have.

"Alene (Tunny) was a teacher. I really like math and people, mom wanted to do art work with kids, unfortunately she had a couple of strokes but she came back and we did some nice projects,"



MICHELLE MCCONNAMA - Barwell Republic
Fourth-grade students in Liz Jameson's class enter the classroom with a hug line for the Soroptimist volunteers they've grown to love.

Amsden said. "Robin (Clute) likes to read and Sue (Macmeeken) was terrified of kids but was willing to do anything the teacher needed help with."

"I followed her because I wanted to work outside my box," Macmeeken said with a laugh.

Five Soroptimists signed up and passed the background checks to work in Jameson's classroom this year about once a week, two-hours each time.

"We were filling a need for Liz and came to do what she needed us to do," Amsden said. "Helping one-on-one with the stu-

Marilyn Amsden said she did several art projects with the kids and has big ideas for next year.

"The program has a budget and one thing it will cover an expense for a child if there is a fee," she said, "instead of the teacher paying out of her own pocket."

Macmeeken, president for a year-and-a-half, said the Soroptimists' national focus is education.

"We have been emphasizing education for women," she said. "But I love this project because it is important to educate young girls and young boys."

Clute said a recent study that showed men who battered their wives but were then taught to read gained self-confidence and no longer felt the need to be abusive because they no longer needed to show they were superior.

"Education changes lives," she said.

Tunny said she enjoys being in the educational environment.

"As a retired teacher it is wonderful to be back in the classroom again with these kids," she said. "They give us as much as we give

them, or more."

The Soroptimist volunteers agreed that hugs from kids are the best payment they could receive.

Fourth-grade students shared their thoughts about having the volunteers in their classroom.

Emma Rivera said, "I love having these ladies in the classroom because it is fun and you help us out," she said. "I just enjoy it a lot."

Halla Madruga said the volunteers were fun and helped her with tough work.

"Like math and art," she said.

Silas Coleman said he likes all the volunteers equally.

"They make everything more fun," he said.

Ryan Shaw said, "It is fun having them around because they make everything more special."

David Marston said the volunteers were fun and helpful.

Abby had a great insight.

"Miss Jameson has a lot of work to do and it is hard for her to do it all and help us individually," she said. "When these people are around they help us and

are really helpful. It helps us to learn more."

Kaylyn Sanchez said it is nice to have the volunteers that help in the classroom.

"They make us laugh and are really nice," she said. "We are all going to miss them next year."

Jameson said the volunteers will be held back next year as she needs them to stay in fourth grade to help her.

"The difference it has made in having them has been phenomenal," she said. "It is like giving the kids one-on-one time that I cannot do very often. It has been very helpful for me, wonderful for the kids and especially kids these days need positive mentors. What they have provided is beyond academics, the kids all know these women care about them."

Amsden told the students that Soroptimist International started in Southern California and the focus is to empower the lives of women and girls.

"We like to do that through education," she said. "We don't want to leave you boys behind either. Our goal is education and being in the classroom has been great."

**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!