



BRIGHT PAST BRILLIANT FUTURE

SEROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HAMILTON Business Meeting – March 3, 2022

Meeting held at BJ's Restaurant and via Zoom.

Attendees: (28) Patti Martin, Brenda VonBrach, Mary Lyn, Joan Richards, Lois Vallance, Marcia Babowicz, Vikki Bell, Pat Bogdanski, Cathy Kulonis, Barb Anderson, Robin Clute, Jean Israel, Teri Polumsky, Dixie Dies, Andrea Simmerman, Linda Pierce, Lois Bryngelson, Sandra Amsden, Carmela Bowns, Nancy Bussiere, Nancy Hutcheson, Sunny Stone, Sue Smith, Donna Ayres, Barbara June, Mary Kearns, April Sommers, and Alene Tunny.

Speaker:

Stefani Jackson of the Laundry Love – Loads of Dignity non-profit spoke on 'restoring dignity – one load at a time' by offering the homeless and low-income neighbors' access to laundry and shower facilities. Product donations she welcomes include protein bars, bottled water, body wash, shampoo, deodorant and toothbrushes/toothpaste. The website for donations to this wonderful service is www.loadsofdignity.com

Minutes:

Nancy Hutcheson made a motion, seconded by Marcia Babowicz, to accept the minutes of February 10, 2022. Discussion noted the minutes should be changed to reflect that Patti Martin will be the chair of the See's 2022-2023 committee and not April Sommers. The vote to accept the minutes, as revised, passed.

Reports:

Correspondence:

Pat Bogdanski reported a check was received from member Sue Johnson for \$1500 for the Pat Sanders Fellowship scholarship award for education in social work.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Hutcheson reported a total of \$55,343.60 in bank accounts and \$5000.00 in the Edward Jones investment account for the 25 in 5 program.

President's Report:

Patti Martin reported she will be chairing the See's Candies committee with the assistance of Marcia Babowicz and will not be chairing 'An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate.' Sandra Amsden thanked Patti for coming up with the original idea of an evening gala, and praised Patti for the five years that she chaired 'An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate' which raised such substantial money each year for scholarships for women and girls. Members clapped heartily in agreement. Patti shared her enjoyment working on this fundraiser and how much she enjoyed working with every member of her committees over the years. Patti announced there will be a fundraising turtle race in June which Teri Polumsky will describe later in the meeting.

Virtual Auction for Education Scholarships and Awards:

Sunny Stone and Nancy Bussiere will be co-chairing the virtual auction for 2022-2023. Sunny handed out a flyer to each member: "We need your help and your creative ideas to come up with a great

name for the virtual auction. Think of a name that will be catchy yet purposeful. One that will tell what our end goal is: to raise money for scholarships for women and girls of Ravalli County. The money raised will empower women through education. Submit your ideas to: SiHamiltonfundraiser@gmail.com by March 24th.

Fundraising:

Turbo Turtle Derby:

Teri Polumsky reported on this new fundraiser which will be held outdoors and will be loads of fun for families. It will be held on June 25, which is our club's charter month. Teri hopes that both Hamilton and Ravalli County pass a resolution honoring our club for that month, which will gain us further publicity. The event will take place at Hieronymus Park and the turtles (not live) will enter the culvert south of the pond and end up in the pond. The committee is partnering up with an entity that supplies the bar-coded turtles as well as a website and computer program back-end to run the race. Turtles will be sold for \$5 each, a family of 6/\$25, 12/\$50, or a herd of 25/\$100. A Turbo Turtle Blast for kids is also planned – a potato gun which shoots turtles into the pond. Additionally, a competition between teams such as the City Council vs Firemen is being considered, which would end in a 'Kiss the Turtle' event. Food may be included. Sponsors will be underwriting the event. The goal is to raise money for the S.A.F.E. capital campaign, perhaps enough to name a room, as well as money for the club's general fund.

See's Candies Fundraiser:

Marcia Babowicz reported profits of \$93 and encouraged members to purchase product. To avoid paying shipping, orders can be placed by calling Marcia.

General Fundraising:

Sue Smith encouraged members to purchase their MineShaft Pasty Co. meal before March 7.

'Spring into Summer' Non-Profit Fair:

Barbara June and Jean Israel volunteered to co-chair this June 4, 2022 event at the Interstate Building.

Women's Health/Hygiene Committee:

Robin Clute reported that her committee will be meeting later this month to discuss distribution of hygiene products. Given the wonderful presentation today by Loads of Dignity the committee will discuss a possible contribution to that non-profit. Robin wrote and received a grant from Ravalli Electric for \$1000 which greatly increased the committee's budget. Historically the committee distributes their products to Darby Bread Basket, Stevensville Food Bank, Hamilton Food Bank and SAFE. It was reported that Red's Studio in Hamilton is collecting NEW bras for the youth home. Used bras which are given to Red's will be laundered and donated to SAFE.

Scholarships/Awards Committee:

Sandra Amsden reported that our club received four applications for the Live Your Dream award. Three of the women received money from our club, with the fourth woman awarded money by the Montana Chateau club. A lovely thank you note has been received from one of our winners. The application period ended on February 28 for the remaining scholarships and awards and eighteen applications were received.

District 4:

Sandra Amsden, District 4 Director, reported the District 4 Area Meeting will be held on March 26 in Missoula from 9:30 – 2pm. The \$15 entrance includes lunch. The District Area meetings for clubs in eastern Montana will be held on April 2 from 10 – 2pm via Zoom and all members are invited to attend.

The position of District 4 Director for 2022-2023 remains open and Sandra is requesting members who have been a President of any Soroptimist club consider applying. The incoming Regional

District President is Karen Marshall and Sandra spoke very highly of her skill and personality which promises a very enjoyable time for district board members.

The Northwest Region conference will be held at the end of April in Vancouver, Washington. Tickets are \$50 through a very simple on-line registration process, with meals an additional cost. She noted that there are significant voting issues to be considered.

The SIA Federation conference will be a virtual event this year with Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani activist for female education, as the keynote speaker. SIH pays \$375 for this event which allows one person to attend. Individual tickets are \$149 for early birds and \$199 when registering after May 1.

Period Poverty

Robin Clute, Carmela Bowns and Mary Lyn are beginning their research into national and Montana facts on period poverty. They handed out excellent information on the current situation for women and girls. Carmela is drafting legislation. Local schools are not allowed to purchase period supplies with state and federal funding dollars. The thought at this time is to get all eight Montana clubs to band together to effect important change in Montana, beginning with joining the Alliance for Period Supplies.

Club Giving

Patti Martin reported the SIH website contains information on how funds are distributed to community organizations.

Committee Event Reports

Alene Tunny reported the current committee report forms have been made more user-friendly by improving the quality of the fillable form aspects. The forms will be on the website next week.

Senior Women Committee

Nancy Bussiere reported that 77 large gift bags filled with special items were created and delivery of the gift bags had begun this morning. The festive spring gift bag, purple and green with colored tissue and ribbon, were each filled with a fleece or handmade knit/crocheted lap blanket, extra-soft socks with gripper bottoms, perfume, body lotion, specialty teas, handkerchief, specialty cocoas, lavender soap (handmade by Andrea Simmerman's teenagers), an organza bag full of candies, and a personalized card honoring the age 90+ recipient. Gift bags will be going to Stevensville's Living Center, Beehive, Discovery, Valley View, Hamilton Senior Center and Sapphire Lutheran Homes.

Nancy Bussiere
Recording Secretary