



SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton

Hamilton , Montana

Best for Women

Northwest Region, SIA

Volume 23 Issue No. 5 November 2020

CALENDAR

Nov 5 noon	Business meeting, BJ's
Nov 12 noon	SOLT/Speaker mtg at BJ's
Nov 19 noon	BOD meeting, BJ's. ??
Nov 26 5:30	Thanksgiving Day
Dec 3 noon	Business meeting, BJ's
Dec 24 noon	Christmas Eve
Dec 31 noon	New Year's Eve

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PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER 2020 MESSAGE



What a pleasure it is to serve as your President! This club has been amazing me for years for its commitment to our mission. And, in this most unusual COVID year, I am even more amazed. It takes more than a worldwide pandemic to slow down SI Hamilton! Let me just give you some highlights from last month:

- First, kudos to the District 4 Director, our own Sandra Amsden. She planned a fabulous district meeting. When the decision was made to cancel the in-person meeting in Whitefish, Sandra wasted no time in putting together the virtual meeting. And I have heard nothing but rave reviews! It was the first district meeting this year, so Sandra was really breaking new ground.
- Two of our members, Mary Lyn and Nancy Bussiere conducted a virtual workshop for the district meeting about holding virtual fundraisers. You may remember that Mary Lyn and Nancy worked on the virtual Evening Wrapped In Chocolate fundraiser which in September raised over \$20,000.00 for our scholarships! That was a huge event and the committee under the chairmanship of Patti Martin deserves our thanks. Since the district meeting, Mary Lyn and Nancy have been fielding calls from various Soroptimist clubs providing much needed help to other clubs as they are adjusting to current fundraising conditions.
- The Senior Women's Committee has come up with a wonderful project. We were unable to host our annual tea for ladies over 90 in 2020. Many of the attendees live in assisted living or other care facilities and have truly been isolated during this year. The committee is asking for volunteers to send cards. What a great way to bring some good cheer! Nancy Bussiere is coordinating the project, so feel free to reach out to Nancy if you would like to help.

- Barb June chaired the Policies and Procedures Committee. Club documents have been reviewed and the club will be voting on the changes at our November 5th meeting.
- Marcia Babowicz and the Sees Committee is busy planning for our annual See's Candy sale during the Christmas season. This year will be a little different. In light of COVID, all sales will be on-line. Just like the Chocolate event, we are going to need all our members to get the word out about the fundraiser. You will see our red trailer in its same spot – it is great advertising.
- Mary Lyn and Sandra Amsden are co-chairs of the Awards Committee. Postcards are being delivered and information on all scholarships is posted on the website. This is always an exciting time – we really get to see the fruits of our labor. Why don't you look at the scholarships and let women you know that it is time to apply!
- Patti Martin, our Vice President, hosted our first new member orientation of the year. It is so exciting to see our club growing!
- Joan Richards and Nancy Bussiere are your hosts for Zoom socials over the next few months. They volunteered as an ad-hoc social committee and I want to say thanks for working to keep our members connected.
- Check out the administrative calendar on our website! This was a big project designed to give all members access to everything we do! Nancy Bussiere volunteered to organize the calendar. This is a work in progress – so check it out periodically.

We have been busy! And we will continue to be busy because our mission is more important than ever. Soroptimist was founded nearly 100 years ago. During the ensuing years, Soroptimists in America have worked through the fallout from World War I; the fallout from the Spanish flu pandemic; the Great Depression; the dust bowl; World War II; the Korean War; several more recessions, the Vietnam War; the social unrest of the 60's; many hurricanes, tornados, floods and wildfires; the attack on the Twin Towers...too many things to list! We will make it through this pandemic, too. Stay smart and stay safe. If you think about it during November, pick up the phone and call a member. Let them know you care about them. Come to our meetings either in person or via Zoom. We are an amazing group of strong women – and, together we are an awesome force for good in our community. Let's stay Soroptimist Strong!



Did you miss our Great Halloween Social?



It was a **BLAST!!!**

"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter."



Senior Women's Tea Committee Report **on their NEW PROJECT !**

We are sending periodic cards to ladies in the community aged 90+, to brighten their day and let them know we are thinking of them. We couldn't hold our Senior Tea this year, so let's do something kind and giving for them. COVID-19 has been challenging for all of us - let's lift the isolation they may be feeling. They might receive from you a little notecard, a greeting card, even a postcard.

Will you please join in? The commitment is to send 2 greeting cards a month, or more if you wish, to the lady/ladies you are assigned. We will provide you with a format for your first card, so you can easily explain why you are writing to them. You can chat in your future cards, or you can just be a day-brightener with a quick HELLO.

Snow birds - this is a great project for you as well! What fun to receive a postcard from a sunny place!

Email Nancy Bussiere at helene6816@gmail.com to join us in the fun. Think how wonderful it feels when your mailbox has a card for you - and not just a bill or a political ad!

Please note:

Note cards / Greeting Cards / Holiday Cards Needed!!

There are over 80 women in our Card Writing Campaign, with more names coming from two nursing homes currently dealing with COVID-19. Perhaps you have some **extra note cards / greeting cards / holiday cards** to donate. Email/Call Nancy Bussiere and she will arrange to get them from you. 651-334-4677





SI of Hamilton just can't get enough chocolate. We finished our successful online fundraiser, An Evening Wrapped in Chocolate, and are now preparing for our online See's Candy Sale for the upcoming holidays. Our sale begins November 12 and you can join us by going to our website: sihamilton.org and clicking on the See's Candy box.

Your order will be shipped directly to you or it can be shipped as a gift to any address! Treat yourself and your loved ones at Thanksgiving, the Holidays and New Years with a few clicks and support your fellow soroptimists! How sweet is that?

**See's
CANDIES**



In an effort to help keep our community safe
The Soroptimist See's Candy Trailer
is going virtual!

Order online NOW at sihamilton.org
FREE shipping with qualified purchase

SEE'S CANDY LOVERS

Though we are not able to open our great little red trailer this season, you can still buy See's Candy through our Yum-Raising online storefront. Simply go to sihamilton.org, click on **NEED SEE'S CANDY**, and place your order.

- ☺ Hassle free, shop from home 24/7
- Free shipping for orders over \$65
- Shipped directly to your home or office
- Ideal client gift (1 lb. box meets IRS deductible threshold)

Proceeds from these sales help fund the following Soroptimist projects: Adopt a Classroom, Christmas Families, Bitterroot Literacy, Awards & Scholarships for Women & Girls, Child Care Resources, Linda Massa Youth Home, SAFE, Stop Human Trafficking, Senior Women Project.

Order NOW through December 4th at sihamilton.org

For more information contact Marcia at 406.369.0915 or Joan at 406-361-5844

Northwest Region District Conferences

The District conferences were great! While it wasn't the in-person fun most were used to, it was a great opportunity to see what the other districts were doing. Our own Mary Lyn and Nancy Bussiere were a big hit with their presentation on how to hold a successful virtual fundraiser. They did an amazing job making both the SAFE and SI Hamilton events a HUGE success, and were excellent at the conference. I have received requests for more information on what they did from all four district's clubs.

A big advantage of the online format of the conferences was they were all available to anyone who wanted to "attend." I got to see all four. The highlights, from my perspective, from the four conferences were:

- District 1 had Sharon Fisher, our Soroptimist International President, as their keynote speaker. She is inspiring.
- District 2 chose Tira Hubbard, the Jackson County Probation Officer. She and her office are working diligently to find new ways to reach the women they work with.
- District 3 focused on youth homelessness and how Maggie Treichler of Rod's House is working to fill the gap.
- District 4 (my favorite!) had two of Hamilton's members present on how they successfully held two virtual fundraising events. And the keynote was the founder of GapFillers Flathead, Tammi Fischer, who talked about how they are filling the gap in caring for the personal hygiene needs of middle and high school girls in addition to helping with the unpaid lunch bills of students.

If you missed them, there will be segments uploaded either to the NWR website, or links to where they reside. I highly recommend viewing all the keynote speakers, and the presentation by Mary Lyn and Nancy.



4th GRADE

Well, the Corvallis Elementary School has sent the kids home for the next two weeks. I helps Liz with preparing packages to be delivered to the kids so they could keep up with their work and a bit of a Halloween treat. I delivered a few to the kid's houses. As I was approaching one house, two of the cutest little dogs, one puppy and an adult, came bounding around the side of the house and tried to trip me as they begged for attention.

As expected, Liz was bummed about the closure, but understood why they had to. It is an unfortunate recurrence in our communities right now.

I don't know when we can get back in the classroom. Alene has been reading to the kids and giving presentations on her travels via the internet. Liz is very appreciative of her efforts. Now I need to find a way to get back into the classroom, even if it's from my living room.

Saundra

Corvallis SI School Project

As they are not having volunteers in the school this year the fourth-grade teacher, Liz Jameson, came up with a way for me to stay connected and contribute to the class. I did some PowerPoint presentations for the class last year when I was traveling.

So, this year, every two weeks I prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to their current curriculum and share it via Zoom. It is such a joy to be able to interact with the kids after the presentations and respond to their questions and feedback.

So far, I have presented on the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the states of Florida and South Carolina, and facts about Camels, and Elephants. I try to connect the topics to our travels as much as possible to make the presentations more interesting. Most recently I shared about how we helped bathe elephants in Thailand and Nepal and included how an elephant gave my husband, Tom, a shower.

Alene Tunny

THAILAND



MY HUSBAND AND I VISITED AN
ELEPHANT RESCUE PARK IN
THAILAND

LOOK WHO GOT THE BATH!





SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HAMILTON

is **NOW** accepting applications for \$7000 in
Educational Awards for women in Ravalli County

✓ Two \$2000 Live Your Dream Awards
✓ One \$3000 Live Your Dream Award

Application deadline is November 15, so don't delay!



Turn card over
for eligibility
requirements

To apply, visit SIHamilton.org

Eligibility Requirements for the Live Your Dream Award:

- ✓ Provides the primary financial support for yourself and your dependents (includes children, spouse, partner, siblings and/or parents).
- ✓ Has financial need.
- ✓ Enrolled or accepted to a vocational/skills training or undergraduate degree program.
- ✓ Resident of Ravalli County (do not need to attend school in Ravalli County)
- ✓ Has not previously been the recipient of a Live Your Dream Award.
- ✓ Does not have a graduate degree.
- ✓ Is not a Soroptimist or family member of a Soroptimist.
- ✓ Has a Social Security number or Tax ID number (only required if awarded).

If you don't qualify for the Live Your Dream Award, please check back in December for more educational scholarship opportunities!

Spreading the word about the our awards and scholarships is challenging this year. Because the Live Your Dream awards have a different deadline than the rest of our awards, we will publicize the Live Your Dream award until the application deadline of November 15th. After that deadline we will start a campaign to publicize the other awards. The committee printed informational Live Your Dream postcards that have been distributed at strategic locations throughout Ravalli County. In late November we will distribute postcards detailing the other awards. **Please help get the word out!**

Nancy Bussiere has taken on the role of keeping in contact with previous award recipients. Some responses:

“It has been a pretty rough month or two. I had two jobs for a while then had to back off of both jobs due to an on-the-job injury where i dislocated my shoulder. I am also engaged and have been trying to save money for my wedding in May. Money has definitely been tight, but the award paid for practically a third of my tuition for the semester. I greatly appreciate the help that the Soroptimists have given me to finish up my generals for nursing school!” - Gracie Bradshaw

“Hi! Thank you. We are doing okay and trying to stay as healthy as possible. The award has definitely helped me with getting closure to my dreams and goals. I am currently in my first semester of nursing school and doing well! It has definitely been a change and is a completely new type of stress but it has been exciting! “

- Natasha Flint

Hi Nancy and the Soroptimist ladies!

“It’s really nice to hear from you! I am currently still in Bozeman attending classes that are partially in-person and partially online. It has been an adjustment, but I am thankful that we get to do some classes in-person!

My family and I have been great and are staying healthy! I hope you all are doing the same. I am so grateful for the scholarship you guys awarded me, and the funds have truly impacted me and my education and I will be forever grateful of you guys for that.

I will be applying for another scholarship this year, and will be sure to spread the word!

It was so great to hear from you!

Thanks again’

-Abbie Dunn

“It is so kind of you to reach out. I just finished my midterm week at Montana State University. I am finally feeling like I've got a hold of the whole "adulting" thing I am very pleased with my grades, which are currently all A's. I am working to keep it that way so I can continue to apply for scholarships throughout my freshman year of college. I am also an FFA State Officer which is usually a very time-consuming position, so I only took 12 credits this semester. Then with most events being cancelled I found myself with a lot of spare time to fill. At first, it was hard to fill my days. I live in an apartment off-campus with one roommate. I love my apartment (other than the spiders) but it was challenging to be alone for so much of my time. Because of this, I decided to try out for the MSU Equestrian English team. I was thrilled to make the team, and have been loving being able to ride horses again. We will not be traveling for competitions this semester, but possibly compete next semester.”

-Gracie Smith

SOROPTIMIST OF HAMILTON

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Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to: <mailto:sinewsletter@gmail.com>
If you submit to either of the above locations, you are guaranteed it will reach us!