



President's Message

Bonnie Baker

HAPPY SPRING WONDERFUL SOROPTIMIST WOMEN!

As we move into this next season of growth, it is uplifting to step back and look at what our Club has been up to.

- March Membership Event – 16 prospective applicants are interested in joining our Club
- Updating our Bylaws to align with Soroptimist International
- Thrift Haus remodeling – an ongoing project
- Enthusiastic Committee work

The decisions implemented this past month have been challenging, to say the least. We can be proud of our Club for gracefully adapting to the changes necessary to carry on day to day Soroptimist business. Our 'new normal' has stretched some of us to be more creative! Soroptimist International has been instrumental with their guidance going forward for the Clubs in the Northwest Region.

I encourage you to keep your spirits up. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Stay in touch with your friends and neighbors. Smile often. Laugh a lot. Things may be different in the future, but what we are experiencing today will not last forever.

Be safe out there. We will see each other soon.

Bonnie



Meet Our New Members

Jane Burkhart. Mother of three, Grandmother of 5. I am a truck/school bus driver. I love beautiful green Montana! I enjoy playing my guitar, singing, biking and swimming and occasionally traveling abroad. I am addicted to: ice cream, used tennis shoes, bowling and making fun!

Lynn Hausauer. Mother of three. I enjoy helping others. I volunteer at the Whitefish Community Center and help with Meals on Wheels. I have always loved Seniors and I am working on my Dementia Practitioner Certification. I work at The Springs at Whitefish as an Activities Assistant and I am also a Caregiver. I enjoy participating in Skijoring, gardening, crafts and being out on my boat in the summer.



Committee Happenings

Funding Committee

The Funding Committee (FC) has paused its activity. Soroptimist International of America asked that all face-to-face meetings be cancelled to avoid spreading the CORVID-19. When Soroptimist International of Whitefish (SIW) changes to allow voting by proxy, that is to vote in a way other than in person, the FC will again make recommendations about awarding SIW funds to nonprofits. To that end, FC decision making will be via phone or an on-line platform.

Soroptimist International of Whitefish budgeted \$ 56,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. SIW awarded a total of \$32,250 to 13 nonprofits after the March 9, 2020 business meeting. Thirteen additional non-profits submitted on-line applications requesting funds; FC will review and make recommendations as procedures are clarified.

The Funding Committee members welcomes your questions, concerns, and of course, suggestions. Louise Porter-Hahn, Shelley McCoy, Mary Neleson, Sue Harding 406-471-2287, sueharding@montanasky.net

Scholarship Committee

Scholarship committee met remotely by email and phone during the last week of March and decided to extend our high school senior girls application deadline to May 1st.

In the current situation, counselors and students have had a hard time communicating and we thought it would be good to give students more time to get their applications in.

We have 33 applicants at the moment but last year at this time we had 60. We hope to meet in person in early May to sort through the applications.

-- Betsy Kohnstamm

Smile of Hope Committee

This fiscal year, we have had a difficult time receiving applications from women who are in need of dental care. Over the last few months, we have been making a few changes in order to market our program.

On February 28th we met with Peggy Walker, DMD, from the FCCHD Dental Clinic and discussed how we could assist eligible women that come thru their system in receiving necessary dental care. We feel that partnering with the Health Department will provide another avenue for women to access our program.

Changes to the eligibility requirements were made in-order to open up these grants for women. Please see those changes on the edited application and the NEW flyer on our club's website. Flyers and applications will be made available for distribution.

We are delighted to report that we have received 2 new applications which are currently being reviewed by committee members. We would still have 6 more grants available for this FY2019/20 if these two applicants receive a grant.

Let us know if you know of anyone that could use one of our Smile Hope grants, we will follow up on any individual.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnn Basirico, SOH Chair



Live Your Dream Committee

The Live Your Dream committee is excited to announce it presented five young women with awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$1,000 to help further their post-high school education.

Our first place winner, Savannah Williams of Hot Springs, received \$2,500. She works at St Luke Community Healthcare. She is pursuing nursing at Salish Kootenai College. Savannah's name will go on for a second round at the regional level and the possibility of a \$5,000 award.

Other recipients are:

- Samantha Flaget, Kalispell, who also received \$2,000, and is studying social work at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC).
- Rose Larson, Whitefish, \$1,500, to assist her towards an associate's degree at the American College of Healthcare Associates of Applied Science in Complementary Alternative Medicine.
- Jessica McCollam, Kalispell, received a \$1500 award to further her studies in web technology at FVCC.
- Jennifer Christensen, Kalispell, received \$1,000. She is studying nursing at FVCC.

Congratulations to all our recipients! A reception to honor them in April, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. We are hopeful it may be able to be rescheduled. Many thanks to the Live Your Dream committee members, Betsy Kohnstamm, Emily Swisher, Lynn Grossman, and Louise Porter-Hahn, for their help.

I was beyond honored to be a recipient of the Live Your Dream award! It not only helped me financially but also giving me more motivation to take these next steps to build a better life for my son and I.

My nursing degree is that much closer! I could not thank Sherry Mayeaux enough for bringing this opportunity to light and for Whitefish Soroptimist providing this



Wine and Cheese Membership Event

The Membership Committee of the Whitefish Soroptimist Organization sponsored a great Wine and Cheese Event on March 12 at the new Unleashed Winery.

After a great marketing done on Facebook, in the newspaper and posters handed out throughout town, we attracted over 20 women interested in joining our group.

We sipped wine and ate snacks while 15 Soroptimist members chatted with prospective new members about our signature programs such as Dream It Be It, Smile of Hope and Live Your Dream.

It was a great event and we are excited about connecting with individual women about joining in the next few months!

Meetings

Until further notice, all Meetings and Banquets have been cancelled. We HOPE that we will be able to have our Picnic in June but will let everyone know.

