



President's Message

Bonnie Baker

Happy New Year Soroptimist Sisters!

Entering into 2020, I am in awe of the many projects we have accomplished this past year.

- Website update
- Facebook page update
- Thank you ads placed in newspaper recognizing our donors in the Flathead
- Six new members to date and counting
- Thrift Haus transformation and organization for safety
- Professional marketing material (Smile of Hope)
- Online applications for awards and funding and membership

Our Club is committed to providing an engaging and meaningful, mission-based experience. To accomplish our goals we are following the SIA Club Roadmap for success in 2020-2021. SIA has asked our club to do these five things to provide a positive club experience while helping to build our collective impact and recognition.

- Increase our Dream It Be It projects and Live Your Dream Awards
- Recruit new members representing 14% or more of our current membership
- Public Awareness
- Fundraising - we got this!
- Future-Invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education



Thanks to everyone all for all the hard work! I appreciate our committees, which are the backbone of our success. I hope each and every member will jump in and participate in this process. Keep it up Ladies!

We can be proud of our accomplishments and fulfilling our mission of Soroptimist International. You are the best! I wish you all peace, happiness & friendship. ~ Bonnie

Meet Our New Members

Lynn Grossman

Susie Burch, our newest member, is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida and is a graduate of Rice University with a degree in Geology. She worked as a petroleum geophysicist in Houston and New Orleans from 1980-1986.

Susie met her husband Art in New Orleans and after they married, moved to Montana joining the family business, Glacier Park Boat Company. As co-owner and treasurer Susie and her family which now included daughters Cristina and Sandy, spent summers at Many Glacier from 1986-2005.

From 2005-2017 she was Director of Economic Development and Continuing Education at FVCC. She is Past President of AAUW Kalispell and serves on the Board of Imagine IF Library Foundation in Kalispell.

Susie will be one great Soroptimist!!



Committee Happenings

Voting Report for 1-13-2020 Funding Request

Organization

Evergreen Fitness Team	Approved
Alpine Theater Company	Approved
Code Girls United	Approved
Youth Dynamics, Inc	Approved
WHS Food Pantry	Tabled*

At Soroptimist January business meeting a respectful discussion of each non-profit's request followed a motion and second to accept the Funding Committee's recommendation. Issues voiced during the discussions included:

Does this request meet our mission of supporting women and girls? *I thought our mission was women and children.* No, the mission was refined to focus on females.

How does this money go to girls? *Through scholarships.*

Scholarships for needy girls? *SIW will request that criteria be developed by the non-profit to identify needy female scholarships recipients, if scholarships are offered.*

The Funding Committee urges non-profits to focus their requests on projects/programs specifically targeting females---to help us meet our mission. In order to receive funds in the next budging year, a non-profit must complete a follow-up report. In addition to tell the "story" of the project/program, the non-profit supplies data about participating gender and age ranges, the geographic area served, and the time frame of the support in the follow-up report.

Members expressed that some non-profits were well funded by other donors and organizations and perhaps did not need SIW funds. A counter idea stated was funding from smaller donors shows broader community support, plus a willingness, on the part of the non-profit, to cultivate multiple funding sources. A diverse funding base also makes the non-profit less vulnerable when a donor no longer contributes.

*The Whitefish High School (WHS) Food Pantry is managed by Barb Mansfield, high school counselor. Funds are used for food needs, clothing, medical situations for students & families *immediate* needs. North Valley Food Bank volunteer and SIW member Linda Wilson informed the meeting attendees that Whitefish Food Bank has adequate food supplies that match the WHS Food Pantry currently food purchases. SIW members Linda Wilson and Shelia Shapiro volunteered to investigate the possibility of developing a relationship between the Whitefish Food Bank and the Whitefish High School Food Pantry. Thus, a motion to fund the WHS Food Pantry was tabled.

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

Scholarship Committee

The Whitefish Soroptimist Scholarship committee completed their fall season of scholarship giving by awarding two categories of scholarships. Once again, we selected 5 college women with our new on-line application process hosted by our website.

We awarded each of them the Past President's Scholarship of \$1,000 each. Award winners are: Kayle Ashe at the University of Montana, Hannah Crutsinger and Mariah Drown at Montana State, Taylor Reilly at FVCC, and Cassidy Norick attending Idaho State University.

Fellowship scholarships for graduate study beyond the B.A. degree were awarded to Danica Yates, who is attending Walden University online to study counseling and Addie Jeanne Krueger who is attending FVCC to study graphic design.

Members of our committee this year are: Sara Parr, Carol Ellis, Cheryl Harber, Carol VandeKieft, and Betsy Kohnstamm. We look forward to the spring cycle of selecting our high school senior candidates.

Human Trafficking Committee

I would like to extend my deep appreciation for this committee and the tireless work they put into making the Dignity Bag Project of the Flathead County Human Trafficking Task Force (FCHTTF) such a huge success.

Dignity Bags contain personal care items, lists of local resources and red flags of human trafficking. These bags are supplied to local law enforcement patrol cars for officers to hand out to anyone they feel is in need. The goal is to provide support to people that are homeless or in need while creating a friendlier connection to law enforcement.

Many victims of exploitation and HT don't go to police out of fear that they themselves will be subject to harassment and/or arrest.

Our club with the generous support of community businesses filled 80 bags (made by hand by our own Cheryl Harber) with hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks and more. The bags were assembled with the help of our members, Task Force members and several dozen West Valley middle school students that had recently learned about HT and internet safety.

These bags were completed in time for the holidays and are being distributed now by LF just in time for January, Human Trafficking Awareness month.

Join us Jan 27 for our dinner meeting to learn about online tools LE are training on to follow traffickers and victims online. This presentation will be presented by Jeanne Parker retired FCSO commander and trainer for DeliverFund.

Live Your Dream Committee

Five candidates will be awarded Live Your Dream awards totaling \$8,000.

The committee of Lynn Grossman, Betsy Kohnstamm, Louise Porter-Hahn, Emily Swisher and Nancy Kaumeyer met to review applications in December.

The winners will receive their awards at a banquet this spring.

Thrift Haus Committee

2020 Jan/Feb/March Thrift Haus Schedule

The January, February & March schedules are now available online at [SignUp Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48AEA729A6FA7-2020) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48AEA729A6FA7-2020>)

We REALLY need volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays.

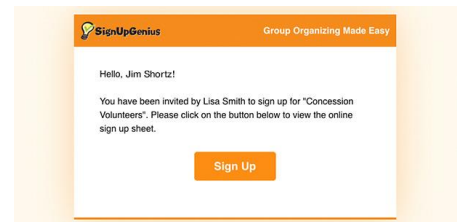
Please write your name on the day and time that you will work. If you can only work a half shift, please write either 11:45-3 or 3-5:30 or whatever works for you in the comment section. If you can work the entire day, please write 11:45-5:30.

Thank you for volunteering! Here is an attachment with the instructions for signing up.

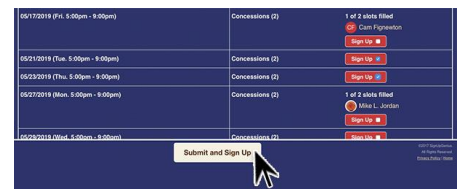
I am available to help anyone with difficulty signing up.
Jill Courtney 406-250-5654

Signing Up Made Easy

- When you receive an invite to a sign up, you can sign up with or without creating an account.
- If you receive an emailed invitation to sign up, click the View Sign Up button in the email to access the sign up.



- For a standard sign up, click the Sign Up button next to the slot(s) you want to sign up for.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the Submit & Sign Up button.



- On the next page, enter your first and last name and email address. You do not need an account to sign up.

Calendar Highlights

- January 27th Dinner Meeting with Speaker Jeanne Parker from DeliverFund at the Springs
- February 24th Dinner Meeting at the Springs – Speaker/Activity TBD
- March 16th - Traditional St Patrick’s Day Meal served to Mountain View Manor residents
- April 27th – Awards Dinner at Rocky Mountain Lodge
- June 8th – End of year picnic at Soroptimist Park on Minnesota Avenue