



Soroptimist International of Washoe County **NEWS**

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

April 2019

"Uplifting the spirits of women and children in our community" www.siwashoecounty.org

BOARD MEMBERS 2018-2019

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LESLI BRISSON

VICE PRESIDENT
KRISTIN SETTY

TREASURER
MARY LONG

SECRETARY
CHRIS WELLS

DELEGATE
JUANITA HLUCHAN

UPCOMING EVENTS



- | | |
|-----------|--|
| April 29: | Fundraiser Meeting at
Chris's House |
| May 6: | Board Meeting @ 5:30 |
| May 13: | Board Elections and
Business Meeting @ 6:00 |
| May 18: | Mardi Gras in May
Fundraiser |
| June 3: | Board Meeting @ 5:30 |
| June 10: | Business Meeting @ 6:00 |



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF WASHOE COUNTY

SI Washoe County
P.O. Box 5876
Reno, NV 89513

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www.siwashoecounty.org

President's Message

Dear SIWC,

As I write this today, today I will be hosting the very first District 5 Stop Trafficking conference call. After our District 5 Winter Meeting, I wrote all of the clubs and asked for a liaison to step forward and join our cause. All clubs sent me a representative. The purpose of this group is to start conversations about how to spread awareness and create some short and long term goals in developing an awareness program. My big vision is that we at some point, lock arms with the Las Vegas and California clubs, collaborate our efforts and develop or use an existing program that becomes a region program, something that is duplicatable and effective. We have a ton of opportunity to really make a difference. On April 13, I spoke at The Nevada Court Reporters Association Conference. The purpose of my presentation was to share and help bring awareness to the audience. I had two guests that sat on my panel. They both represented nonprofits in the Reno/Sparks communities. One was Michelle Gehr from The Eddy House. The Eddy House is a nonprofit that is open daily. They close at night and are closed on weekends due to zoning and financial issues. Primarily they are a safe house for youth that have aged out of the foster care system. The biggest takeaway for me was that the youth homelessness population has skyrocketed here in our community and it continues to rise. Many of these kids resort to prostitution and connect with traffickers as a means to have a warm bed. These are young women that are being robbed of opportunities. The cycles need to be broken. My other guest was Camille Iglesias from The Kids Kottage. She shared about the under aged children that come to the Kottage who have been picked up off the streets. Their pimps will contact the kids that have been picked up for their safety, use social media to contact them, threaten them and coerce them back to the streets. This happened recently to a child. Gladly, the pimp was arrested and thrown in jail. We discussed everything from the trafficking of youth to adults, legal and illegal prostitution, Nevada Legislation, and how corruption within some law enforcement agencies is impacting catching the pimps. We discussed the cycles of the victims, the profiles of victims and also how homelessness is impacting the youth and adult populations, forcing them into prostitution or being trafficked. We briefly talked about The Nevada Health Fund. I am very excited for our upcoming Stop Trafficking forum, taking place during conference. This forum will be designed to educate our audience on many levels. We have a very informed panel, covering a range of issues. I hope members walk away starting conversations and see the importance of Soroptimist involvement so we can continue to better the lives of women and girls. The year is almost over, and I have to say that it has been incredible! New members, new ideas, new firsts and lots of new! It is exciting to be ending our year with Mardi Gras In May. Everyone has pulled together, and I hope you are as excited as I am! Thank you to Mary and her team from The Ways and Means Committee. As I finish my second year as President, I am encouraged for the future of SIWC.

Serving women and girls with you,
President Leslie

Business Dinner Meetings 2nd Monday of Each Month 6:00- 8:00 at the Tamarack Junction 13101 S. Virginia St, Reno



Dress in costume, wear your favorite mask, or come as you are!

Please join SI Washoe County for our annual fundraiser!

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 2019
7:00 – 10:00 PM**

**McKinley Arts & Cultural Center
925 Riverside Drive ~ Reno, NV 89503**

*This fun filled evening includes:
hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and drinks ~
beer, wine, champagne, soda, and water.*



**PROCEEDS BENEFIT WOMEN AND
CHILDREN IN WASHOE COUNTY**

**TICKETS \$40/EACH
or 10 FOR \$350**

- DJ and Dancing with DjTrace
- Raffles
- Games and Prizes
- Photo Booth
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction



*For more information or to
purchase tickets, please call
775-247-5796*

OR

**BUY TICKETS ON
EVENTBRITE
SI Washoe County
Mardi Gras in May**



**EVENT SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**

Please contact Mary Long for details.

775-247-5796



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WWW.SIWASHOECOUNTY.ORG

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Soroptimist International of Washoe County is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Federal Tax Id. #: 20-2615163.

**Must be 21 or over to consume alcohol.*

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Please join us for our next business dinner meeting.

Monday, May 13th
5:45 – 8:00 PM

Tamarack Junction Casino and Restaurant
13101 S. Virginia Street
Reno

Strong Women
stand together when
things are **rough**, hold each
other up when they
need *support*, and **laugh**
together when there's
no reason to.
WomenWorking.com



April 17 – Wendy Allison

For information about Soroptimist International, check out these websites:

Sierra Nevada Region:

www.soroptimistsnr.org

Soroptimist International of the Americas:

www.soroptimist.org

Soroptimist International:

www.soroptimistinternational.org



FIAT LUX AWARD



Fiat Lux Award Recipient, Lisa McCarthy

At our March meeting, we presented Lisa McCarthy with the Fiat Lux Award and a \$500 award. Lisa works with the local group Awaken. Awaken conducts outreach and provides direct services to women and girls to help them transition out of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Thank you, Lisa, for all you do for our community!



Club member Chris Wells was so excited to present Lisa with this award.



Lisa and the Awaken team that nominated her for the award. Pictured (L to R): Melissa Holland, Lisa McCarthy, Jen Robinson, Stephanie Sherman, and Stephanie.