

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF
TAHOE SIERRA

“THE MORNING CLUB”

CHARTERING AND PURPOSE

Chartered in 1977 at South Lake Tahoe, our members are active or retired dynamic business and professional women. The Tahoe Sierra Club is part of a worldwide service organization consisting of more than 100,000 women in over 115 countries. Soroptimist women work together for the benefit of their local communities and the worldwide community.

MEMBERSHIP

Our name is coined from the Latin words “soror” and “optima” and means “the best for women”. Membership in Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra is by invitation. First year dues are \$155 and \$110 per year thereafter. These dues may be adjusted in May with current dues being due by June 20th of each year. Current meeting fee is \$7.00. Meetings are held every Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 AM and ending promptly at 8:30 AM. Meetings are held at the Senior Center located at 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, California. Meeting attendance is not a requirement but we highly suggest you attend each meeting. Business meetings are the first Thursday of each month. All meetings, our business meeting, have an informative program or speaker.

Membership Benefits

As a member of this prestigious service organization, you will have the opportunity to

- Develop friendships with club members and Soroptimist throughout the world
- Enhance Professional growth and leadership development
- Experience Educational programs and Travel opportunities
- Develop heightened awareness and appreciation for other cultures
- Gain respect and credibility within the community
- Experience the unity and purpose gained through working with others to achieve common goals

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Service Programs

You will be asked to serve on a service committee of your choosing. This provides a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences and any particular “passion” you may enjoy.

Committees

Awards

Education • Economic and Social Development
Healthy Women • Healthy World
Human Rights • Status of Women
International Community Goodwill
Youth Enrichment
Focus Project • Girls Empowerment

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Our service funds support the following organizations and projects:

Women’s Center
Boys and Girls Club
CASA
BATS art programs in the Elementary Schools
Kids College
Drug Store Project
Lake Tahoe Education Foundation
Senior Brown Bag Program
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Relay for Life
Young Parents Program
Childbirth nurse
Sierra Recovery Center
Habitat for Humanity
Heifer Project
Scholarships to South Lake Tahoe High School and Whittel High School
LTCC Scholarships
Awards to students in Elementary and Middle schools
Literacy Program in local schools with books for all students K-8

SERVICE FUNDS ARE NOT USED TO FUND THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CLUB. ALL FUNDS RAISED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ARE RETURNED TO THE COMMUNITY VIA SERVICE PROJECTS.

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PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimism and to the ideals for which it stands:

The sincerity of friendship
The joy of achievement
The dignity of service
The integrity of profession
The love of country

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold, and defend these ideals for a larger fellowship in home, in society in business --- for country and for God.

MISSION STATEMENT

Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra strengthens and enhances the lives of women and youth in our community and the world.

MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

- Participation in our one annual fundraiser
- Payment of Annual dues
- Serving on choice of committees that reflects your passions and interests
- Regular attendance at our weekly meeting and committee meetings
- Working together as we collaborate to achieve our goals

SOROPTIMIST AIMS

- Maintain high ethical standards in our business, professional life and personal lives
- Strive for human rights for all people and in particular to advance the status of woman and children
- Develop a spirit of friendship and unity among Soroptimist of all countries
- Quicken the spirit of service and human understanding
- Contribute to international understanding and universal friendship

CODE OF ETHICS

- Full recognition of the rights of others
- Acknowledgment of the responsibilities of citizenship and the duty of discharging the obligation entailed

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TAHOE SIERRA FACT SHEET

Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas. SI of the Americas is the largest of the four federations representing North and South America, Japan and the Pacific countries. This is our Federation Level.

The club is part of the Sierra Nevada Region, which is our local group of clubs. We participate in regional conferences and work with club advisors and regional committees. This is the Regional Level.

We are part of District II. The district encompasses 8 clubs geographically close to us with whom we share issues, fund-raisers, topic seminars, district meetings and warm friendships. This is District Level

Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra is our club level.

RECENT PROJECTS that REFLECT OUR Mission Statement

- Scholarships and recognition awards to local youth and community college student in California and Nevada
- Women's Opportunity Awards for women re-entering the workplace. Violet Richardson Award for youth volunteers
- Aid to Women's Shelter
- Provide Mother's Day Baskets and Christmas Baskets to needy individuals
- Purchase books for each child for summer reading for all the K-8 grade students throughout the school district in California and Nevada including St. Teresa's
- Established the "On Your Way" award to be given monthly to elementary students who have vastly improved their reading skills
- Established awards for Most Improved High School Junior and Senior
- Established "Outstanding Student" awards at Kingsbury and South Tahoe Middle School
- Middle School Writing Festival
- Our members support many other organizations. We volunteer by cutting fruit, making sandwiches, collecting water samples, cleaning beaches, donating Christmas gifts, tutoring, making blankets, and participating in whatever way we can.

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FUNDRAISER

We have one fundraiser each year - "Elegant Evening". Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra expects each member to help with this once a year event. We ask you to help plan, sell tickets, collect donations for silent auction and be available to help the day and evening of the event. Many members are needed to make this event worthwhile. This is the ONLY way we raise the money to support our many service projects.

CURRENT YEARS EVENT

Our Elegant Evening Event is March 27, 2010 at Harrah's Convention Center

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SPONSORS AGREEMENT

I understand that I have an obligation to provide leadership, support and fellowship to the person I am sponsoring. I will do my best to make her feel welcome, introduce her to the club members, and help her become familiar with all aspects of Soroptimism. I will do this for the first full year of her membership. If I am not available I will ask another member to assist her.

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend orientation meeting with new member
- Offer to drive new member to first few club meetings. If she is absent, call to tell her what happened at the meeting.
- Introduce new member to SITS members and advise her that SMART Team members are available to her if she has questions.
- Sit with new member at all meetings, and if unable to attend meeting then find a substitute sponsor for that meeting. Advise new member who will be her sponsor at that meeting.
- Explain Soroptimist terminology and jargon: answer questions
- Encourage and join with new member in club project participation.
- Introduce new member to committee chairs and help her join a committee she will enjoy
- Encourage the new member to attend any committee meeting, board meetings, district meetings, regional conferences and other beyond-her-own-club Soroptimist events. Explain the importance and/or fun of these meetings. Attend with her or arrange for her to go with someone else if you are unable to attend.
- Let member know that if attending weekly meeting or any meeting becomes a hardship that she can discuss this matter with you or any member of the SMART team.

Sponsors name _____ Date installed _____

Tell us about this prospective member _____

Date Proposal accepted _____ Amount Collected \$ _____ Check # _____