



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LARAMIE
BEST FOR WOMEN

<http://www.soroptimistoflaramie.org/>



***President's Letter
for September***

This past August we had a luncheon retreat at Marie Sheaffer's cabin. Marie as usual was a wonderful hostess. Our purpose was to gather informally and brainstorm for the upcoming Sorooptimist year 2008-09. We enjoyed great food and fellowship in the warm relaxed environment of Marie's mountain cabin. Our primary topics of discussion focused on expenditure of community service funds, membership and fundraising. We also agreed that our storage sheds need cleaned out and organized. A clean up day of September 20, was scheduled. Starting with community service, it was noted that

after donating \$100 in memory of former member Cheri Hall to the Downtown Clinic, \$379.23 remains in Venture Club fund that is restricted for use to some form of memorial to the Venture Club. We concluded that a statue made by a local artist depicting women or girls, perhaps an angel would be appropriate. Locations suggested for its display were the courthouse, hospital or the women's historical lot downtown. We also discussed the general community service funds and need to stay "mission focused" when giving. The group recommended a guideline for giving of 90% to our local community and 10% to our international causes. Suggestions were made to seek out more non-profits and provide scholarships for women to take business class to enable them to start their own business.

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Moving onto membership we recognized the need to mentor and engage our new members. It's nice for a new member to have someone she can sit with at the meetings and call if she has questions. There is a need to reach out to new members, make them feel welcome and engage them quickly in activity so they don't feel left out of the group. Since we live in world of electronic information, have a program meeting to educate the new members, as well as the rest of us to navigate various websites to obtain information about all of the Sorooptimist programs and activities. Lastly we brainstormed about fundraising; the date, venue, format and publicity were discussed. It was agreed that the comedy night event has been successful and is truly less labor intensive than casino night, but are we ready to give up our



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casino night? That would have to be determined by a club vote. In terms of the date, we talked about hosting the comedy night event in conjunction with New Years, Valentines Day or St. Patrick's Day, something before the close of the Soroptimist year while keeping in mind other community events. Do we need to change the location of the event as sound quality has been issue for the last two years? Perhaps a night club setting would work better. What can we do to more effectively publicize our event? While we had lots of ideas flying around, we understood that any official activity must be agreed upon by the club. It's only through a group effort that we will accomplish our tasks for the year. I look forward to getting know each of you a little better this year and sincerely hope that you enjoy your year in Soroptimist, as I

expect to enjoy mine.
Thank You.

Sincerely, Carmen



SI PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

***Each month our newsletter will highlight at least one area in our Programs of Service. The more we all know about Soroptimist, the easier it will be to tell everyone we meet what great things we do and what a great organization we are!**

FYI - WHITE PAPER ABSTRACT:

Women and Education

Soroptimist International of the Americas, working to improve the lives of women and girls in local

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communities and throughout the world, examines the issue of women and education in this white paper. In 1948, the United Nations declared basic education to be a fundamental human right. Despite that, more than 115 million children do not attend school, 62 million of whom are girls. Two-thirds of the world's 862 million illiterates are women. The benefits of education for women and girls are many, resulting in the social and economic advancement of children, families and communities. Educated women are more likely to enter the formal labor market, learn what they and their children need to do to stay healthy, and are more likely to send their children to school. Unfortunately, sexist cultural norms, poverty, poor health, child labor and safety issues keep many girls from receiving an education. The United



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Nations, through the Millennium Development Goals, reports some progress, but governments still have work to do to improve access to and quality of education for girls and women.



OUR HISTORY

WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

This is the story of our Grandmothers and Great-grandmothers; they lived only 90 years ago.

Remember, it was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to go to the polls and vote.

The women were innocent and defenseless, but they were jailed nonetheless for picketing the White House, carrying signs asking for the vote.

And by the end of the night, they were barely alive.

Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of 'obstructing sidewalk traffic.'

They beat Lucy Burns, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air.

They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack.

Additional affidavits describe the guards

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grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the 'Night of Terror' on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food--all of it colorless slop--was infested with worms.

When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.



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<http://memoryloc.gov/mmecollections/suffrage/nwp/prisoners.pdf>

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy.

The doctor admonished the men: 'Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity.'

We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women.



EVENTS CALENDAR

September 20, 2008

Clean out storage shed,
9:00 a.m.- 104
Fetterman, # 's 165 & 166

September 25, 2008

Program Meeting @
Wingers – Noon

October 2, 2008

Board Meeting –
Altitudes – Noon

October 3, 2008

Founder's Day

October 4-5, 2008

District III Meeting,
Lander

October 9, 2008

Business Meeting @
Wingers - Noon



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***HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO
YOU –
CELEBRATE
BEING YOU!!!***

Susan Bulgrin 9/20
Elizabeth Parks 9/22
Jennifer Brook 9/26
Rochelle Martin 9/30
Janet Brook 10/3
Nicole Capellen 10/8
Jeanne Robison 10/17

***A BELATED HAPPY
BIRTHDAY to:***

Natailia Weakly 6/21
Fay Glissman 6/26
Linda Gault 6/27
Kay Lynn Hammer 6/28
Debbie Cheesbrough 8/6
Kelly Collini 9/2



***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
YOU!!***



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QUOTE:

It is one of
the most
beautiful
compensations
in life...we can
never help
another
without
helping
ourselves.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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2008-2009
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SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE:

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist 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.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.