

Soroptimist International of Woodland

September 2013

www.soroptimistofwoodland.org

Volume Four

Issue One

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Sept 27 Bunco

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Oct 26 SNR District V meeting

Nov 28 Running of the Turkeys – benefitting the Yolo Food Bank

SI Woodland Club

Meetings:

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:30 p.m. at Wraith, Scarlett, and Randolph (WSR)

2nd Wednesday noon at Mojo's Bar and Grill

4th Wednesday social evening TBA

President's Message

Welcome to a new SI Woodland Year. As many of you know, the theme I chose this year is "Let's Raise the Roof!" Why, you ask? It's not because our chapter knows how to have a good time, although this is also true. It is because I was often told as a child "Many Hands Make Light Work" (John Heywood). I never believed it. I always felt I could do anything and everything by myself. The years have started to creep up on me, my body has started to wear down a bit, and then I joined Soroptimist International of Woodland. I am now a believer in that quote by John Heywood. The Amish have always known the truth to this. When a home is being constructed in the Amish Community, everyone in that community gathers together to "Raise the Roof" of the house. I believe, as I know all of you do, that the world wide community of Soroptimists are gathered together to "Raise the Roof" for fellow women and children in our own communities and across the globe.

We have a full year planned for fundraising and giving back to those in need. We started off the year with an informal "New Member Recruitment Social," and I am very pleased to say we had seven ladies attend the social who seem to be interested in joining SI Woodland, and helping us "Raise the Roof" a little higher in our community.

I am so proud to be a part of this amazing, fun, and dynamic group of women. I hope you all are as proud to be a Soroptimist as I am!

Tami Leathers
President 2013-2014



SI Woodland Member Introduction

Member Missing in Action!



At the end of last program year, SI Woodland member Tammy Winter temporarily relocated to South Dakota. Known for her great smile, sense of humor and great kindness, Tammy, a fixture at almost all meetings and a past President, Treasurer and Secretary, has been an SI Woodland member since 2004.

In her own words, she became involved with Soroptimist because, “after the kids (Corey, 26 and Katherine, 25) became self-sufficient, I was looking for something that I could do that was just for me. I had always wanted to do volunteer work, but it was difficult to find the time with all their commitments. I had never heard of Soroptimist, but after attending a couple of meetings, I knew it was something that I wanted to be involved in. I love everything that Soroptimist stands for.”

When asked how Soroptimist has influenced her life, Tammy commented that “Soroptimist has given me a chance to focus energy towards to improving others’ lives. And not only that, but it has given me a chance to grow as a person by allowing me to take leadership roles. I’ve never been a person to like the spotlight and certainly don’t consider myself organized, but I took on the role of President and did a fairly good job. I choose to look at all the things that were accomplished instead of those that I didn’t. It has certainly given me more confidence, and I will just keeping stepping outside the comfort zone.”

Tammy grew up in the Natomas area, before it was the highly developed residential and business area it now is. In 1996 her uncle owned “Time Out Sports Bar” and said he wanted to bring in new blood for the wait staff. She was the ‘young blood’ and started working on Friday nights. Through that job, she got to know many of the local businessmen, and eventually, her current boss at Valley Fuel Injection needed a new bookkeeper and offered her the job. She continues to telecommute and take meetings when she comes home to visit.

Tammy can often be found knitting, gardening and reading. She is missed and we can’t wait until she comes home!

Soroptimist - Improving the lives of women and children in our community and throughout the world.

College Bound- Improving Opportunity through Education

After a successful program launch in October of 2012, SI Woodland's College Bound committee is looking forward to hosting another event and welcoming another group of students. The project, which sprang from concern that local students were unaware of potential career and possible higher learning opportunities available to them; SI Woodland developed this program to address this potential deficit.

On a beautiful fall morning, third grade students from Whitehead Elementary in Woodland were taken on a field trip to the University of California, Davis and participated in curriculum to broaden their horizons so that they could be "college bound" in the future.

In small groups the students rotated through four stations, covering various topics, all designed to spark an interest in pursuing higher education: why go to college, social aspects of college, how your interests relate to occupations and college courses, and goal setting.

After the rotation to all stations was complete, students had lunch in the quad area. Students then returned to their small groups and were taken on a brief tour of the campus.

In order to measure the success of the project, students completed questionnaires both before, and after the program. Prior to their visit with SI Woodland to UC Davis, 61% of the students strongly agreed that college was important for a successful job. After their morning with the College Bound Committee and other SI Woodland members, 85% of the students strongly agreed that college was important for a successful job. Furthermore, before participating in College Bound, 54% of the students strongly agreed that their teachers expect them to go to college. After our program, 73% of the students strongly agreed that their teacher expected them to go to college.

The committee is now developing and planning a second College Bound program for this program year.



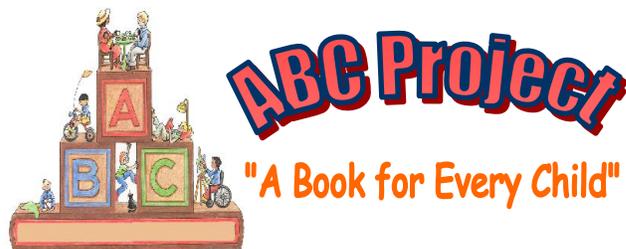
ABC Project: A Book for Every Child - Supporting Literacy in Our Community

The 2013-2014 ABC Committee has kicked off the start of the new program year with a bang! As summer ended and Woodland abandoned swimming pools in favor of the classrooms, the committee made a generous donation of books to the Woodland United Way. The donation, made during the kick-off event for the organization's 2013 LIVE UNITED Campaign, was an essential component of the United Way Annual Book Drive. The Woodland United Way has begun a new education initiative promoting literacy, a fundamental right that SI Woodland and the ABC Committee have been dedicated to for more than a dozen years.

While inventorying the books SI Woodland has had left over from years of donations throughout the community, the committee has also agreed to divide excess elementary and middle school reading level books between the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center and 4th & Hope. These books will be placed in safe houses and service centers, to provide distraction to anyone in need. Various Spanish-language books were also discovered in the surplus, and the committee has chosen to donate these books to Beamer Elementary School and their Spanish immersion program.

In looking further into this program year, the ABC Committee continues to plan its large scale Kindergarten book donation program. The committee and various SI Woodland members visit each kindergarten program in the Woodland Joint Unified School District each spring and provide every child with a book to take home.

The ABC Committee was formed in 2005 and is deeply committed to improving the literacy of all children, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status. It is the belief of the committee that all children must be able to read properly if they have any chance of being successful in life. The committee and SI Woodland are happy, and will continue, to provide opportunities for literacy throughout the community.



*Soroptimist
International
of Woodland's*

BUNCO

On the Lawn

Friday, September 27

Gate opens at 6 pm * Dice Roll at 6:30 pm

On the lawn at
916 Homewood Drive
Woodland

*Space is limited.
Advance reservations
are recommended.*

\$20 per person or \$35 for two
Includes snacks and dessert

Prizes!

No host bar



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Details at www.soroptimistofwoodland.org
Questions? Call Betsy Taloff@ 916-216-7899

Officers 2013-2014:

President

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BriAnne Dewberry

Treasurer

Lisa Bruni

Immediate Past

President

Tania Garcia-Cadena

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Monique Brammeier

New Member Social Event

On August 29, 2013, SI Woodland held a social evening at Maria's Cantina for potential new members. Many members were in attendance at the event, which was hosted by current SI Woodland President, Tami Leathers. We enjoyed appetizers while listening to immediate past president, Tania Garcia-Cadena, provide a brief description of our mission and various projects. We had a successful event with several of our guests choosing to attend our first meeting of the program year on September 4. Guests are always welcome to attend any of our SI Woodland lunch or evening meetings, in addition to our events and social evenings.

For additional information contact

SI Woodland at:

Email: siwoodland@soroptimist.net

Mail: P.O. Box 1231, Woodland, CA 95776

Soroptimist websites:

Sierra Nevada Region (SNR)

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

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

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

Soroptimist International

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

SIA's "Live Your Dream!" Campaign

<http://www.LiveYourDream.org>

Thank you to all the SI Woodland members who contributed to this newsletter.