



Laurel Leaf

SI Bellflower's Newsletter

April, 2017



President's Message

Members of the Bellflower Soroptimists are hard at work preparing for next month's award tea. It is at this event that we recognize the local agencies that we support and present a number of awards to deserving women.

April also means Spring Conference. Spring Conference is when all the Soroptimist clubs in the Region are invited to gather together to conduct business of the Region; present awards; hear dynamic speakers and renew friendships. This year it will be held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills.

The weekend following Spring Conference is the Su Casa ~ Ending Domestic Violence Tea. Our table has once again sponsored a table at the tea. Members of the club will be in attendance as Su Casa honors First Responders to Domestic Violence! The honorees are: LASD Commander Keith Swensson and LBPD Sergeant Curtis Yee. We will be on hand as Su Casa thanks these two members of Law Enforcement for their efforts to break the cycle of violence and bring an end to domestic violence.

The Miss Bellflower Pageant is being held at the end of April and a number of our members have been actively involved in helping this year. This event is not just a beauty pageant; it's a community based non-profit organization that helps the young ladies of the community increase self-esteem, gain life-skills, learn about their community, as well as experience new friendships.

Club members Doreen; Lisa; Deana and Linda are actively involved with Miss Bellflower. Doreen serves as the Secretary of the Miss Bellflower organization as well as serves as a chaperone for the girls throughout the year. Lisa; Deana and Linda are teaching the girls how to approach businesses and ask for sponsorships as well as helping to prepare them for interviews. Bellflower Soroptimists taking an active role in the community!

President Sue



Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Join the Bellflower Soroptimist club and help make a difference to so many!

Inside this issue

In The News

Bellflower Soroptimist Club Newspage 2

Soroptimist Federation & Camino Real Region....page 3

Member's Cornerpage 4



IN THE NEWS ... *Bellflower Soroptimists*

Spring Conference



**Soroptimist members & our two
Live Your Dream Awardees**

Bellflower Soroptimist members Doreen; Terri and Sue represented the club as Delegates at the Soroptimist Spring Conference in Woodland Hills. Close to 200 Soroptimists were in attendance throughout the weekend. On Sunday, the Region opened up the brunch to all Soroptimist clubs winners of the Live Your Dream Award. Our club invited both our winners to join us at the brunch. Deana graciously picked up and drove one of our awardees to the brunch. We had a wonderful time getting to know our club's awardees. We can't wait to present them with their recognition at our May awards program.

Su Casa Tea



Deana; Sue; Ann; Betty & Doreen at the Tea

Bellflower Soroptimists have long supported Su Casa ~Ending Domestic Violence, a local domestic violence shelter. Several of our club members were able to represent the club at the tea on April 30, 2107 at The Grand in Long Beach. This year's tea was honoring first responders to domestic violence. The honorees were LASD Commander Keith Swensson and LBPD Sergeant Curtis Yee. These two members of law enforcement were recognized for their efforts to break the cycle of violence and bring an end to domestic violence.

DREAM IT- BE IT



Bellflower Soroptimists will be partnering with the Lakewood/Long Beach Soroptimist club to hold our first ever Dream It - Be It Conference for girls. Dream It - Be It, targets girls in secondary school, ages 14 – 17, who face obstacles to their future success. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and resources to live their dreams. Soroptimist clubs will work in partnership with girls in small groups or a conference setting to provide them with the information and resources they want and need to be successful. The topics covered include career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success and how to move forward after setbacks or failures. Thanks to the hard work of Tawny Ruiz from the Lakewood/Long Beach club, we are able to join with them for this event. The event is scheduled for May 20 at Mayfair High School. So far, we have 5 of our own members who will be at the event. Be sure to check out upcoming newsletter for information on how it turned out!

IN THE NEWS... Soroptimist of the Americas



FEDERATION FOCUS

Meet our new SIA President Dawn Marie Lemonds. Congratulations to President-elect Dawn Marie Lemonds of Soroptimist International of Newport Harbor Area (Soroptimist International Desert Coast Region) Dawn Marie began her new position immediately, and will become SIA president on September 1, 2017.

IN THE NEWS... Camino Real Region

New Soroptimist Club is Chartered in the Region



Something new and exciting happened in the Region. The Camino Real Region chartered a NEW ONLINE CLUB on

Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Oxnard. The Club will be known as *SI/Tagum City Oxnard Online* and will become the Region's 24th Club. This new concept joins the Philippine Region with the Camino Real Region. 13 women joined and there are more women who are planning to join the club right after its chartering.

Friendship Grant Recipient



**Doreen & SI member
Margaret, from Kenya**

Camino Real Region clubs hosted a Friendship grant recipient for 3 weeks in April. Margaret Ikiara, a member of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland - Soroptimist International of Meru, Kenya, Africa stayed with a number of club members homes during her 3 week stay. We were able to meet her at Spring Conference and get to know her and what she does in Kenya. Margaret is the Founder and Executive Director of CIFORD Kenya (Community Initiatives for Rural Development). With degrees in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, she has guided CIFORD since 2002 and instituted a broad range of programs to address rural poverty and women's rights. She works towards empowering women and girls, changing the debilitating practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and teaching sustainable agriculture in the semi-arid region of NE Kenya. Margaret is an accomplished farmer as well as leader of change.

IN THE NEWS ...

...Member's Corner

It's a Wedding!



Richard & Pat with the minister



Pat with Matron of Honor Deana



Deana with wedding decorator extraordinaire, Gina.

Club Meeting Times & Locations

Business Meetings

1st Monday of each month

12 Noon

Program Meetings

2nd Monday of each month

12 Noon

Location:

First Missionary Baptist Church

9246 Rosser St.

Bellflower, CA

Monthly evening & Saturday dinner meetings according to members' schedules

Interested in finding out more about us and how you can be a part of making a difference in the lives of women and girls?

Be our guest at a meeting or one of our social events.

Call or e mail Susan @ 562-862-8669 or

Susan@helds.us

For more information about the Bellflower Soroptimist Club, be sure to check out our website:

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

And go to our Facebook page and "Like" us!

<https://www.facebook.com/SIBellflower>

