

Soroptimist International of La Grande

January Business Meeting – Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017 – Island City Hall

President Ashley called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and our Soroptimist Grace.

Treasurer Patty Gooderham presented the Treasurer's Report:

Beginning balance	\$25,896.04
Deposits	\$8809.45
Expenses	\$3140.67
Ending balance	\$31,564.82

Members were reminded that the full financial reports can be found on our web page.

FESTIVAL OF TREES – Finance Officer Shirley Roberts reported that we show an income of \$95,144 from the Festival of Trees, which includes the \$16,600 earmarked for scholarships, raised through the new Raise Your Paddle event. She is waiting for several more invoices, and she noted that the FOT committee intends to purchase several more curtain/backdrops and tree stands. She believes there will be a surplus of around \$21,000 after all expenses are paid. The Community Grants Committee met last night and will present its recommendation to the SI Board and subsequently to the full membership in early February on the expenditure of those surplus funds.

FESTIVAL OF TREES – Community Grant Committee Chair Jacque Harvey reported that February 23 has been selected as our awards ceremony. Di Lyn will send out invites to the 16 grant recipients, and Jacque will circulate a sign-up sheet for members. The luncheon will be catered. In Jacque's absence (she will be suffering in the warm climes of Arizona at poolside somewhere) President Ashley will present the checks to our recipients.

FESTIVAL OF TREES – Chair Shannon Willmarth announced that the FOT wrap-up meeting is set for Feb. 6 at noon at Local Harvest.

MARKETING – Chair Tressa Seydel announced that recently discovered glitches in our social media are being corrected. She encouraged members to submit items for that blog site.

COMMUNITY GRANT COMMITTEE – Chair Jacque announced she is seeking two new committee members. She briefly described the committee duties and calendar of meetings.

SCHOLARSHIPS – Committee member Shirley reported that our club did not receive any applications for this year's Live Your Dream award. The committee reached out to neighboring clubs in Wallowa and Baker counties, and selected Amanda Wagner of Wallowa County. Amanda will receive \$2000 to further her pursuit of a nursing degree. Shirley moved that the award be added to our February 23 ceremony. Pat Wood seconded and the motion carried.

Tressa asked that our scholarship/award notification letter be revised to include the fact that we may ask the winner to share their story at an upcoming Festival of Trees Gala (if Raise the Paddle is continued). The members concurred with that suggestion.

Past President Melinda Walker asked all of us to encourage all of our applicants and share our confidence building skills to those less sure of themselves.

SCHOLARSHIPS II – Shirley reported on her committee’s recommendation on utilization of the \$16,600 raised at this year’s Festival for scholarships. These funding recommendations are a one-time expenditure, not an ongoing recommendation:

1. Live Your Dream Award
Increase the current ongoing award from \$2000 to \$3000 for the 2017-2018 academic year only
2. Add an additional Live Your Dream Award of \$2000.
3. EOU Continuation Scholarship - \$3000 for women in academic year 2017-2018
4. Union County High School Scholarship (three awards)
Increase the current ongoing award from \$1000 to \$2500 for 2017-2018; add two additional awards of \$2500 each for women, academic year 2017-2018.
5. Pro/Tech Scholarship (Two awards)
Award amount is \$2000 each for men and women – academic year 2017-2018

That leaves a balance of \$100 which will be deposited into our general account. Shirley moved approval of the recommendations; Tori Gandy seconded. Motion carried.

We discussed marketing strategies of these scholarship opportunities and members will follow up. Shirley announced that applications would be accepted beginning January 15, and closing April 15.

There being no further business, SI La Grande was adjourned.