



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF BIDWELL RANCHO – CHICO

Board of Directors Minutes

Tues., Oct 7, 2025

(Directors present **in bold type**)

Babette Maiss	Marie Hartman	Melanie Kopping	Paula Wilson	
Layne Diestel	Maxine Guynn	Michelle Chambers	Sheron Box	

Meeting was called to order by President Babette Maiss at 5:53 p.m.
at the office of Parliamentarian Sheron Box, CPA

1. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paula had notified the board of her expected absence, and had emailed the report in advance. No questions or edits were suggested.

2. Minutes

Board members revealed that no one had received the revised September minutes sent by Secretary Michelle on Sunday. It also came to light that Michelle had not received the committee reports and other items from Babette. Update: Michelle investigated and learned Babette's emails were ending up in spam.

3. Unfinished Business

A. Lobster Feast

- i. The 1st annual event on 9/27 was successful, with attendees, members and venue owner all expressing a positive experience and enjoyable evening.
- ii. Sheron reported the total revenue was \$15,389 – later corrected to \$15,609 -- and total expenses were \$11,233.95. (One \$1,000 sponsor still owes payment.) The net income from the event was \$4,375.95.
- iii. The venue and caterer have been secured for next year, Sept. 26, 2026.
- iv. Planned improvements include using an alternate rental company to All Star Rents for tables and chairs, and securing another group to help with set up and break down of those items.

B. Committee Reports

- i. New member Kim Goosmann is doing an exceptional job spreading the word about the **Live Your Dream Awards** opportunity.
- ii. Layne discussed a few changes planned for the **2nd annual fashion show**, March 21, but will keep the overall format unchanged. The first planning meeting will be October 9th.
- iii. There will be mock job interviews held with **Fairview High School** students on Oct. 23rd. Ann Marie is in conversation with school officials regarding printed flyers to inform students about the Career Closet.

- iv. The first meeting of the **Dream It Be It** committee will be with SI Chico at Babette's office on October 9th, 5:45 p.m., 13 Williamsburg Lane, Chico.
- v. As part of the **Womens' Holiday Project**, the Salvation Army Bell Ringing will take place December 13th from 10:00 to 4:00, inside the Raleys on West East Avenue.
- vi. The **Santa Project** will begin 30 minutes earlier this year, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., on Thursday December 11th, confirmed between Maxine and Paula, and the Principal at Little Chico Creek Elementary School. Maxine and Paula will meet later in October to start specific planning and ordering of materials.
- vii. Michelle suggested that the club be polled about its level of interest in pursuing **Human Trafficking** as a club project, separate from the question of doing HT presentations (to which only Babette had indicated interest). This idea was expanded during New Business (below).
Plans to work on HT with the noon Rotary club have been deleted by president Rob Reddemann, however SIBR is invited to buy \$30 dinner tickets to an event at the Chico Elks Lodge on October 28th, the date of our Program Meeting (already scheduled with a guest speaker). Michelle asked to attend only the HT talk after the dinner (and our program meeting), but Rob did not respond.
Rob offered for SIBR to contact him if we have a project for which we need a small team to assist.

C. Travel Fundraiser

Layne asked to reopen the conversation about the commission opportunity, noting that since several SIBR members are traveling privately perhaps we are missing an opportunity for funds. It was reviewed that the Board will not recommend the opportunity be pursued as a formal, advertised fundraiser, however;

- Linda can present the information to the club at the next business meeting.
- The club can decide if it would like to have an account with the travel agency, and members may individually book travel for which the club can benefit from a shared commission.
- The club can use travel opportunities as raffle prizes only with the travel agency representing itself – void of Soroptimist logo, media or insurance.

4. New Business

A. Membership

- i. Past President Marie brought forth Pattie Pardini-Barrett as a new applicant. Marie moved that Pattie be welcomed into SIBR, and Michelle seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- ii. Having a recruitment social/mixer was discussed, with general consensus to try setting a mixer date within a week or two of the next fundraiser, and personally deliver printed mixer invitations to the fundraiser attendees. Lassen Cidery was suggested as a possible location.

B. *Haley Music Therapy Lip Sync Contest benefiting the Music Therapy Impact Fund*

President Babette covered the details learned at a recent information meeting. The event is Saturday, February 21, with a matinee and an evening performance, and a practice rehearsal on the Thursday prior. Michelle moved to present the opportunity to the club, and Layne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. *SIA Uplift Her Campaign*

The theme for October is intimate partner violence. Michelle suggested that we combine this topic under the HT committee, and that the club be asked if there's interest from members to be on the committee – perhaps renaming and/or broadening the focus of the committee.

5. Correspondence

Secretary Michelle responded to an email from Brianna Dorenzo who'd survived trafficking and domestic violence, and who wants to help other victims. Michelle contacted her by phone to discuss her area of interest, and referred her to Catalyst. Michelle also contacted the director of Catalyst to help make the connection.

6. Calendar

October	9	1 st DIBI planning meeting with SI chico, at 5:45
	14	Business meeting
	28	Program meeting; guest speaker with topic of journaling
November	4	Board meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Michelle Chambers, SIBR Secretary