



S O R O P T I M I S T[®]

Investing in Dreams

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF BIDWELL RANCHO - CHICO

Board Minutes Sept 2, 2025

Meeting called to order by President Babette Maiss at 5:51 p.m.
at the office of Parliamentarian Sheron Box, CPA
All Board members were present

1. **Director Maxine presented the minutes** from the last Board meeting, 6-3-2025. No changes.

2. **Treasurer Paula's report:**
 - A. It was noted that CA Dept of taxes and fees were \$50, not \$5
 - B. It was noted that \$537.89 was for glasses, not wristbands (for the upcoming fundraiser)
 - C. Per President Babette, going forward, all forms filed with a government entity need to be signed by the SIBR president before submission.

3. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. The potential travel fundraiser opportunity recently emailed by Linda Lucena was discussed:
 - i. Per correspondence received by Babette, SIA strongly cautions that risks be carefully assessed and additional insurance be acquired if SIBR decides to offer travel services /opportunities (with the goal of earning commissions from the travel agent).
 - ii. The cost of additional insurance may offset any commission earned
 - iii. A problem or injury associated with the trip could create a legal and/or financial liability for the club and its officers, as well as pose a situation of ill will or negative publicity.
 - iv. Leaving the Sorooptimist logo off all promotional materials and/or using trips only as auction items was mentioned as a possibility.
 - v. With marketplace availability for travel packages and perks, some wonder whether SIBR would make a worthwhile profit from raffling a trip -- or worthy of the potential risks; it was mentioned that there are other auction items that could garner a greater bidder interest and net profit to the club.
 - vi. The board decided not to make a recommendation for travel bookings as a fundraiser, and will
 - Ask Linda to share about the opportunity at a club meeting
 - Have a conversation with the travel company regarding insurance
 - Allow the club members to discuss and decide

- B. There is an opportunity to nominate a club member to run for an SIA board position by mid-September; no member was put forth as a candidate.
- C. Member Kelsey's mother is involved in an upcoming Lip Sync event on Feb. 21st, at which we may have a SIBR team compete. Participating teams may win cash prizes for their service clubs and organizations, and ticket holders may vote either in person or online during the event. Babette will attend an information meeting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 10 to learn more details. She asks that another member attend with her.
- D. Per President Babette, no official minutes of the Board Retreat were to be prepared or sent by the Secretary, and a motion made at Retreat is the only item to be documented:
 - Layne made the motion to give the Career Closet a 6 month trial period, after that we will review; second was made by Marie, and the Motion was passed.

4. New Business

- A. Babette and Sheron presented a draft of a Sponsorship Letter of Thanks which will be posted to the website. Going forward sponsors must be provided a letter that itemizes both the amount of donation as well as any goods or services that the donor received; only the net amount of a donation is tax deductible. For example, if a sponsor gives \$500 but receives 2 dinner tickets, the Thank You Letter needs to itemize the value of the tickets (which may not be claimed as a deduction).
- B. Human Trafficking projects update from HT Chair Michelle
 - i. In June the SIA President had suggested that HT wasn't aligned with Soroptimist's primary goals. So, does the SIBR want to continue with its projects?
 - a. Babette instructed that after the SIA President's revelation many members of SIA voiced opposition, so SIA has restated the position to include HT projects, especially those compatible with *Uplift Her* and the *Big Goal*.
 - ii. Michelle shared that even localized, individual sexual exploitation – when electronically shared or sold - is defined as trafficking. And, all effort against HT pertains to the over-arching mission of *Best for Women*.
 - iii. Last year's HT committee determined that
 - a. Continuing the Enloe backpacks is a worthwhile and valuable resource for our community – whether for a trafficked individual or someone who's been assaulted and therefore more vulnerable to escalated exploitation – pornography, trafficking, etc.
 - b. Focusing on awareness and education via public presentations is something realistic the club can do to participate in addressing the global issue. There are currently two planned presentations; at Rotary and at SI Chico (January 14). There is also potential for larger events such as a community symposium.

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- iv. As the new HT committee Chairwoman, Michelle recommends
 - a. Untie the annual 5K from the HT project, instead creating a more uplifting theme -- at the same time, not specifying that the 5K proceeds will specifically benefit anti-HT.
 - b. If possible, next year schedule the 5K farther away on the calendar from the Fashion show.
 - c. The HT committee needs members who are willing and dependable to do public speaking, and/ or have AV experience and knowledge.
- C. Secretary Michelle will secure a card to send with a \$50 donation to SI Trinity County to commemorate its 50th year, and suggested allowing the SIBR members attending the Club retreat this weekend to sign the card. Treasurer Paula will write the check to include with the card.

SI Trinity County, PO Box 1656 Weaverville, CA 96093
- D. Club aprons were positively discussed as an option. It was generally agreed that dark blue with white logo "S" and "Soroptimist®", would be an attractive option.
- E. SI Chico invited SIBR to a SUDS event (Soroptimists Uniting and Drinking Socially); Friday, Sept. 19 at Lassen Traditional Cidery, 643 Entler Ave, Suite 52. Babette will ask the membership if they are interested in participating.

5. Correspondence, none

6. Calendar

- A. Sept. 6 District Meeting in Burney, CA
- B. Sept. 7, 10:30 Club Retreat at Babbette's home; bring a brunch item
- C. Sept. 23 Program; *Get to Know Your Club*
- D. Oct. 7 Board Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Michelle Chambers, SIBR Secretary