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Inner Wheel U.S.A. Foundation

"Turning Possibilities into Realities"



Winter 2020

2019/20 Foundation

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A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN PATRICIA PICARD

Hello and welcome to Foundation Month 2020!!

Each year we take the month of February to highlight our Foundation with events from many clubs and districts raising funds for the Foundation.

I want to say thank you to everyone for all of the events that will be happening this month. In this newsletter, you will see a few of the events that happen annually. We hope to feature more events in our next newsletter as well. Last Fall, I shared how much our Foundation had accomplished and I am overjoyed to share again that we have been blessed. You'll read more about that later in this newsletter.

As chairman, I have been busy learning all I can about how to be a chairman. I have visited numerous clubs and have been welcomed everywhere with open arms. It is so inspiring to see all that our Inner Wheel clubs do for their respective geographic areas as well as raise funds for our national project. We are a group of hard working, giving and dedicated women.

I want to thank our IWUSA President Gill Broadaway for hosting me in Florida in January. I was able to attend a district meeting and a club meeting! So much fun to meet more Inner Wheel women. I hope and pray I will get to see some of them at our upcoming IWUSA Spring Meeting in Haines City, FL, April 29-May 2, 2020. It will be a great event.

I do want to issue a personal invitation to everyone reading this newsletter – PLEASE COME to our IWUSA Meeting this year. It will be a great time of fun, friendship and a little education on the side. We will have a short, interactive workshop about being a Foundation Coordinator, giving you ideas of how to share about our project. People are always so interested and after learning about what we do, everyone wants to 'give a child a hand'. So please join us. Everyone is invited!

And on a very challenging note, I must share my sorrow at the sudden passing of our beautiful Secretary of the Foundation, Laurel McFarland. Words cannot express how much she will be missed. Laurel was a ray of sunshine and laughter. She always had a 'funny' for me when I needed it and she was the best at taking care of her Inner Wheel duties. Attached is a picture of Laurel and me in Greenville, SC. The picture says it all, *"A party without cake is really just a meeting"*, Julia Child. My heart goes out to Laurel's husband and family. I was fortunate to attend her celebration of life and it was literally standing room only in a room of hundreds of people. I know Laurel is looking down on me and keeping an eye on me and I am comforted knowing she's there. Thank you to everyone for supporting each other during this difficult time and as we move forward. We are a family!

So now, please enjoy the rest of this newsletter. Remember our Foundation this month and please let me know if there is anything I can do to support the foundation efforts in your part of the country.

With appreciation for all you do,

Patricia Picard

Chairman, IWUSA Foundation



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Laurel McFarland (lower right), with the Sacramento Club



Laurel McFarland and Past Foundation Chairman Christine Becker reading Laurel's Children's Book



In Memoriam

Laurel Jeske McFarland
January 25, 1962 - October 6, 2019

Laurel McFarland passed away suddenly on October 6, 2019, in Auburn, CA, at the age of 57. Laurel was a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Sacramento, serving as President, Foundation Coordinator, and Secretary. As the District 519 chair, she created the successful fundraiser "Pick-A-Purse", and led the Pinochle Club. Laurel served as a Trustee on the Inner Wheel Foundation Board as the Benefactor Chair and then as Secretary. She did more than hold a title though. Laurel was the spark and energy for any group or project for which she was committed, and she was awarded the prestigious Inner Wheel Excellence Spirit Award. She used her writing talent as editor of the club newsletter, and to write a children's book entitled "Who's Who Around the World", part of the literary project for her district.

Laurel had a generous and giving nature and got things done adding fun, enthusiasm, and a great smile. In addition to the many friends she made in Inner Wheel, Laurel leaves behind her loving husband Leo, three daughters Amanda Holt, Kaleigh Borden, and Devin Pinon, their spouses and four grandchildren. Laurel had a strong commitment for charitable work which was seen through her deep involvement with Volunteers of America and Inner Wheel. A Celebration of Life was held on November 3rd, 2019. Her family offered donations to the Inner Wheel Foundation in lieu of flowers. Laurel is surely missed.



Laurel McFarland receives the Excellence



Laurel McFarland (center) with Connie

Janice LeFevre had this to say about Laurel:

Laurel's trustee application explained "The good work of the Foundation inspired me to be a better Inner Wheel member". Laurel was also inspired by her mother, Betty Jeske, a devoted Foundation supporter and Inner Wheel member. Laurel believed Inner Wheel's future success depended on the public being aware of and understanding what Inner Wheel and the Foundation do, thus, she aspired to use her energies and talents as a trustee to this end. Laurel was a great communicator, explaining, "I taught 8th grade English for many years, so I can handle anything." When her children were younger, she was a teacher's aide volunteer, president of PTA, and the "Book Fair Queen". Laurel was a multi-talented, energetic, enthusiastic, charismatic, fun-loving friend and dedicated trustee of the Foundation.

Slidell Club Promotes Inner Wheel and the Foundation

The Inner Wheel Club of Slidell has been making the rounds. They are showing off Hanger's new 3-D printed "Hero Arm" and the classic myoelectric limb to local Rotary Clubs. Club President, Vicky Magas is also a Rotarian and has made it her mission to tell every Rotarian she knows about Inner Wheel and our Foundation. The club developed a power point presentation that explains a short history of how Rotary and Inner Wheel are connected. It also talks about Inner Wheel International, and Inner Wheel USA. It highlights the Inner Wheel Foundation's history and partnership with Hanger Clinic.



Vicky Magas with Maurice "Mo" Carr, Westbank (LA) Rotary President



(Left to right), Gay DiGiovanni, Vicky Magas, and June Green.

The Slidell club has presented this program to six local Rotary clubs. Donations from these clubs and Rotary District 6840 have netted the club \$2,680 this year.

The power point presentation and accompanying narrative will be sent to each club Foundation Coordinator in February and would be helpful to show to our own clubs as well as Rotary clubs and local organizations to promote Inner Wheel and the Foundation.

At each club they visited, Vicky presented the Rotary club presidents with our symbolic "Rose of Friendship". "It was very gratifying to share our common goals of friendship, service, and good will. Together We Can work together in our communities for the good of all", said Gay DiGiovanni, and as Vicky likes to say, "Together We Will!".



Selling raffle 'opportunity' tickets, (left to right), Lillie Tonkin, Connie Abram, Chris Longrigg, Beverly McGlothlin, and Janice LeFevre

We Love **GREEN!** Another Emerald Donor

By Patricia Picard

Our Foundation has been so fortunate this year to have THREE Emerald Level Rose Council members. Our latest donation of \$25,000 is from Mary Lynn Pelican, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Niles-Fremont in California. I was at a club meeting at Mary Lynn's home and I was sharing our Triennial Report. Mary Lynn became interested right then and there. Now I must tell you, Mary Lynn is the official 'Ambassador of Fun' so when Mary Lynn gets excited, watch out! Mary Lynn will be presented with her Rose Council pin at District 517's Founder's Day Champagne Brunch, (see page 4 for details). We are so grateful to Mary Lynn for her generosity and we look forward to celebrating her.



Districts 517 & 519 Friendship Luncheon

By Janice LeFevre

Every Fall members of the California District 517 and the District 519 and Non-Districted Clubs gather to celebrate their annual Friendship Luncheon at Zio Fraedo's of Vallejo. It has been co-chaired for many years by Sue Kasper, District 519 and Janice LeFevre, District 517. This year the marina location was lovely, the food delicious, and the weather was perfect for another successful day of friendship, fun, and fundraising for the Myoelectric Limb Project.

The tables were decorated with Pilgrim families and cornucopia of pumpkins. The day was filled with about 40 members meeting new friends and reuniting with long-time friendships.

Each Club contributed one or more prizes for the raffle table. After lunch we chose to again play a game, as last year's "Do You Know?" was enthusiastically received. When asked for game suggestions, Laurel McFarland generously offered a fun "Left, Right, Center" game . . . that we played and dedicated to our dear Laurel.

Our raffle raised \$630 that we divided between the Districts and sent to the Myoelectric Limb Project. It was a special day that many members looked forward to.

Up-Coming Events

District 517 Founder's Day Champagne Brunch Celebration

By Janice LeFevre

District 517's annual Founder's Day Champagne Brunch Celebration will be held Sunday, February 16th at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, CA.

The guest speaker will be James Caywood, a prosthetist with Hanger Clinic serving multiple clinics throughout Northern California. He will demonstrate and explain the new 'Hero Arm' created with a 3-D printer. The Inner Wheel USA President, Gill Broadway will also attend.

Six beautiful baskets created by each IW Club filled with weekend get-a-ways, unique gifts and/or cash, valued from \$200-600+ are offered for the raffle. Members have been selling "opportunity" books of 6 tickets for \$10.00 to friends, family, and Rotarians to raise funds for the Myoelectric Limb Project. The lucky winners will be drawn at the Founder's Day Celebration.

Our District has sent \$10,000 every year for 12 years from this fundraiser. \$10,600 was raised and sent in 2019.

Inner Wheel USA and Foundation Spring Meeting April 28—May 2, 2020

Big plans are now underway for the semi-annual Inner Wheel Governing Body and Foundation meeting. The venue will be at a retirement community in Haines City, Florida, with accommodations in four bedroom, four bath houses. Each house has it's own lanai (screened-in porch and pool). The Balmoral Resort balmoralresortflorida.com offers us pool rooms instead of hotel rooms!

Non-board members are welcome to join in for lunch and fun activities on Thursday April 30, general meetings and meals on Friday May 1st, and in workshops on Saturday May 2nd. The workshops will cover topics about the Foundation, social media, e-memberships, and becoming an Inner Wheel leader.

What better excuse do you need to bring your friends to party and deepen your knowledge and understanding of Inner Wheel and the Foundation. The deadline to register is February 29, 2020. Please contact Gill Broadway, gill.broadaway@gmail.com for cost and reservation details.

Meet Our Kids



Unique celebrated her 4th birthday when she received her first limb through Inner Wheel. She was attending two preschools in Richmond, CA, at the time. One that concentrated on speech and writing skills for challenged children and a standard preschool. According to her mom, Yves Ramsey, Unique loved to write, paint, play pretend and play outside. At home, she

had a playhouse and a kitchen and loved to "cook," dress up and play house. She also loved looking at books and having her mom read to her.

Unique and Victoria are pictured with passive arm prostheses. Some parents will choose to have their baby or toddler fitted with a passive arm that does not have mechanical or electronic components so their child can learn to function with an artificial limb. These are later transitioned to a myoelectric limb as they grow. This gives them more functionality as they get older.



Victoria was born with a right transradial limb deficiency. As an infant, she used a passive prosthesis but transitioned to a myoelectric arm provided by the Inner Wheel when she was just a toddler. For the next five years, Hanger Clinic was able to provide her with ongoing care. She used her myoelectric arm so much that she quickly needed to have her batteries replaced.