



SOROPTIMIST

South Atlantic Region

Region Fall Meetings 2016

Chestertown, MD - September 24, 2016

Williamsburg, VA – October 1, 2016

Gaithersburg, MD – October 22, 2016

WELCOME

- 1. Overview and Important Meeting Information**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Introductions**
- 4. Plans for Today**

A SHORT
HISTORY
LESSON

1921: The first Soroptimist club was founded in Oakland, California. The founder was Violet Richardson Ward.

THE PURPOSE
OF THE
ORGANIZATION
WAS STATED TO
BE:

“To foster the spirit of service as the basis of all worthy enterprises and to increase the efficiency by its members in the pursuit of their occupations by broadening their interest in the social, business, and civic affairs of the community through an association of women representing different occupations”



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The organization met weekly, debating service projects and hearing speakers on various worldwide issues that would broaden members' horizons. The first service project was "Save the Redwoods", working to protect the great, ancient trees that were being felled. The organization and its members lobbied the legislature, took on powerful lumber companies, and won the support of the public. The actions resulted in a major portion of the forest being set aside as protected land, which protected land still exists today



At about the same time, a similar organization was established in Britain. Its purpose was:

“ACROSS THE
POND”

“To encourage high ethical standards in business and professions; to increase the efficiency of each member by the exchange of ideas and business methods; to stimulate the desire of each member to be of service to her fellows; and to quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare and to cooperate with others in civic, social, and industrial development.”

Such organization’s first project was befriending motherless girls and supporting the local Children’s Society to establish an open air hospital school.

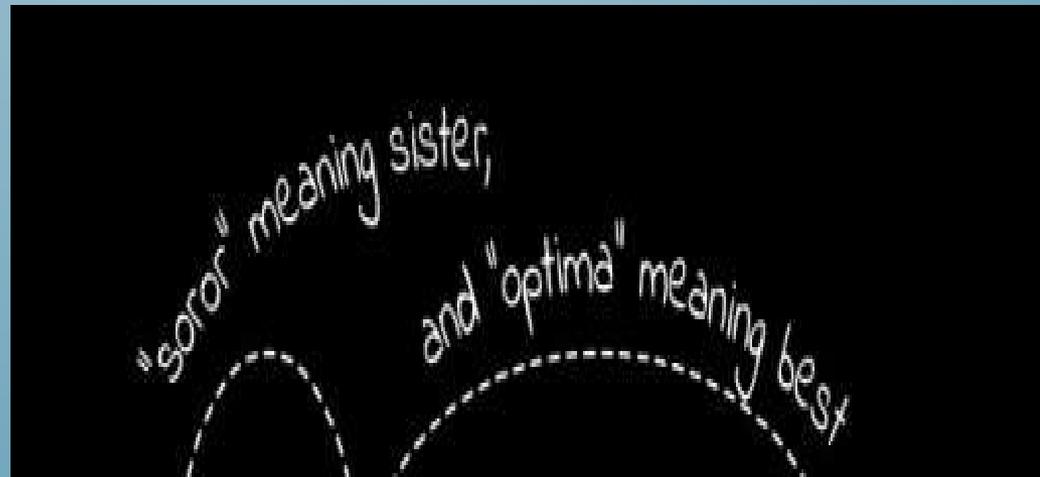


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“GREAT
MINDS THINK
ALIKE”

Despite their similarities, neither organization knew of each other when they started, and similar organizations began forming across the United States, Great Britain, and Europe (all without the knowledge of the others).

In 1928, the Soroptimist International Association was formed to create a link between the global entities, with the individual organizations in Europe and Great Britain organized under a European Federation, and the individual organizations in the United States organized under an American Federation.



During the 1930s, many service projects were undertaken, including vocational training for women and children, housing for the disadvantaged, assistance for the sick and disabled, concern for the local area, and caring for refugees.

Clubs continued to form around the world, serving their communities and beyond:

1. During WWII, Soroptimists embarked on rescuing members of the Vienna club and their families, who were threatened by the Nazi regime.
2. American Soroptimists donated funds and clothing.
3. Many clubs across Europe, meeting clandestinely, made clothes, and mended needed items. Service projects included opening restrooms for women in the united forces.
4. A New Zealand club set up a refugee relief committee for people escaping from Europe.



WORLD
INVOLVEMENT
AND
RECOGNITION:

1946: Soroptimists hold a reception for delegates to United Nations conferences, including Eleanor Roosevelt.

1948: Soroptimist International Association awarded Consultative status with UNESCO.

1950: Soroptimist International Association awarded category C Consultative status with the United Nation's Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)

1952: Soroptimist International Association reorganized as Soroptimist International, an international governing body.

1966: Soroptimist International granted Consultative status by UNICEF due to its service projects for children.

1975: Soroptimists attends the first UN World Conference on Women, held in Mexico City.

1984: Soroptimist International awarded Category 1 Consultative status with ECOSOC.

SOROPTIMIST IN 2016

A global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls. Our network of around **80,000 club members** in **132 countries and territories** works at a local, national and international level to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls.

Projects take place all over the world focusing on issues such as Violence Against Women, Safe Sanitation, Displacement, Education, Leadership - anything that effects the lives of women and girls.

THE VISION OF
SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls together **achieve** their individual and collective potential, **realize aspirations** and have an **equal voice** in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.



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MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

In pursuing the mission, Soroptimists value the following:

- Human rights for all
- Global peace and international goodwill
- Advancing women's potential
- Integrity and democratic decision making
- Volunteering, diversity and friendship

EDUCATION

It is a global issue, including an issue in the United States. Girls' education is more than just about getting girls into school. It is also about ensuring that girls feel safe and learn while in school, complete all levels of education with the skills and competencies to secure jobs, make decisions about their own lives, and contribute to their communities and the world.



Educate To Lead: **Nepal**
December 10th President's Appeal 2015 - 2017

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist



International

THE
PROJECTS -
EDUCATE TO
LEAD: NEPAL

Life is extremely difficult in Nepal, and essential supplies have been blocked at the border, preventing access to supplies for daily needs such as fuel and building materials to build homes.

Disaster relief for the April 2015 earthquake has not arrived in many rural villages, which means that women and girls continue to be at risk.

Because of the difficulties and conditions, the 2015-2017 SI President's Appeal exists to bring hope to some of these women and girls, through projects that increase access to education, allowing them to rebuild their lives.

PROJECT 1 -
AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION

- In partnership with REED Nepal lead by the Australian Himalayan Foundation, SI will work to improve educational outcomes in the Lower Solu Khumbu (Everest) region, a world away from the popular trekking trails.
- The TTQE (Teacher Training & Quality Education) Program includes support for Key Teacher workshops to fast track the most able teachers so they can train other teachers – creating a truly sustainable program. The key challenge facing education in rural Nepal is not building more schools but improving the quality of the education delivered, so girls are equipped with the kind of education that changes lives. SI Educate to Lead: Nepal will provide training for 100 teachers.
- The TTQE program will also extend their scholarship program, by providing 14 girls with vocational training aimed at creating long-term livelihood opportunities and economic independence. This training would be made available for girls at a high school level, either in school or who have dropped out, providing them skills in practical trades.

PROJECT 2 –
REMOVING
BARRIERS TO
EDUCATION IN
NEPAL

With the Educate to Lead: Nepal grant, SI Truckee Meadows will remove the barriers to education for 20 girls when they move into the dormitory for 2 years to attend school. Room & board, tuition, books, supplies and uniforms will all be paid.

A micro lending program will be available to them when they finish, allowing them to start a small business. Since the launch of the microcredit program the club has experienced a 100% repayment rate.



PROJECT 3 –
THARU
WOMEN'S
PROJECT

With a grant from the Presidents Appeal, SI Oita-Midori will offer computer literacy classes to women and girls. They will purchase 20 computers and in the first 2 years train 80 women and 10 teachers to be able to use computers in their income generation. The training will continue over 5 years with a final goal of training 200 women.

During the trip in December 2015, members of SI Oita-Midori presented the first computers to Tharu Village in Nepal.



Those projects are just the beginning, a sample of the change that Soroptimists can make in the lives of women and girls in Nepal through education. Once again our global network will work together to harness the collective power and generosity of Soroptimists by increasing educational resources and increasing the number of women and girls accessing education and leadership development.

From local projects ...



SI advocates and raises awareness on behalf of women and girls



Through our network of international advocates and United Nations representatives SI learns about best practices, emerging issues, and global trends



Feedback to SI via the 4 Federations and programme reports

Scroptimist International takes a bottom-up approach, linking grassroots club projects to global advocacy to

transform
the lives of
women and girls



SI disseminates that information to inform and improve local work



Local work uncovers the needs of women and girls

to global voice

UNITED NATIONS

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY

- SI has 16 UN Representatives who work across 6 UN Centers to ensure that the voices of women and girls around the world are included in international decision-making. This work is driven by Soroptimist projects. All of SI's advocacy work is based on the principles of human rights.
- At the United Nations, SI's UN Representatives advocate for women and girls, and lobby governments to take action to make sure that women and girls access their human rights.
- Their work is driven by SI projects, and SI's UN Representatives also provide information about emerging issues and international development agendas.
- Through this work, SI gives women and girls the global voice that they need.



SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND

<http://members.sigbi.org>

ABOUT:

354 clubs in 47 countries and territories

15849 projects

£26M raised

493,000 people benefitted by the projects and funds.

WHAT IS THE
FOCUS OF
SIGBI
PROGRAMS:

Soroptimist Clubs and Associate Members work on “projects” which support Soroptimist International’s Vision and Mission. The overarching theme is “Educate to Lead”, and projects must educate, enable and empower women and girls to help them to improve their lives.

Some
examples of
projects:

**STEM Challenge for Girls in KS3 Years 8 and 9
(SI Bournemouth, Southern England)**

Inspiring, enabling and empowering girls, through a STEM based education challenge, to choose to study STEM subjects within their GCSE options and further studies with the aim of improving their career prospects.

**Dress A Girl Around the World
(SI Mansfield and District , Midland East)**

Making dresses so that girls can go to school in impoverished areas. Not only have many of these girls never owned a new dress before, but a label is put on the outside of the front of each dress so that predators will hopefully leave them alone. This project has inspired many local women and girls to become involved either by making dresses or donating material for dresses.

**Friends Of The Poor in South India
(SI Guildford and District , Southern England)**

Club raised money to enable a charity in India to buy 10 new sewing machines that will provide opportunities for very poor women to become self-sufficient making garments in their own homes- this will transform their lives and empower them.

Some examples of projects that have recently been carried out:

**Child Mortality in Malawi
(SI Kenilworth and District, Midland Arden)**

To address problems of child mortality in Malawi, this club supports the training of specialist pediatric nurses.

**Every Voice Counts.
(SI Ilkley, Yorkshire)**

This project, designed by the club, was organized to give women an equal voice in creating strong and equal communities by enabling them to feel empowered by telling their own story whether or not they came from an educated background.

**World Book Day
(SI Rugby, Midland Arden)**

This club gives away books to highlight World Book day and to highlight what the club is doing for education.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

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

ABOUT:

This Federation is comprised of 35,000 members in more than 1,260 clubs, across 62 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Since October 2012, the members of Soroptimist International of Europe have raised €12,574,304 for 5,419 different projects that have directly benefitted 1,583,046 women and girls.



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EDUCATION,
TRAINING, AND
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT:

Each year, Soroptimists of Europe conduct hundreds of successful local, national, and international projects to educate, train and establish businesses for women and girls across 60 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Most projects are designed to meet the needs of women and girls in the Federation's communities.

They do so by building or refurbishing schools and classrooms, providing teaching materials and books to school-age children whose parents cannot afford them, acting as mentors to young women, and teaching languages to immigrant women who are struggling to integrate into a new society.

Many of their projects also focus on preparing women for employment by teaching them technical skills and offering vocational programs.

Approximately 1400 scholarships are awarded each year to deserving women and girls in the Federation's communities.



The Federation has its own UN consultant that advocates actively for equality in education and equality in teaching at the local, national, and international levels.

Each year, Soroptimists design, fundraise for and implement projects to help improve access to economic empowerment opportunities for women. They do so by giving women and girls the education and practical skills needed to enter the workforce and become economically independent.

Together with their partners, Soroptimists provide women with the skills and resources they need to flourish as entrepreneurs or as employees. In areas where women don't participate in traditional banking or financial services, Soroptimists help them gain access to credit so that they can start their own small business.

Soroptimists build wells in communities to reduce the time women spend hauling water for cleaning or cooking, and train women on how to increase their crop yield and sell what they produce in larger national and even international markets.

Some
examples of
projects:

Soroptimists across Germany have for over a decade been running a mentoring program for young women which helps them develop their leadership potential, prepares them for management positions, provides them with networking opportunities, and shows them that it is possible to have a successful career and a family.

Soroptimists in Bamako, Mali, together with Soroptimists in Switzerland recently built a school in the Malian village of Foura. They also contributed to the well-being of the entire village community by digging a well to provide clean drinking water and installing solar panels to ensure the village has a sustainable and clean source of electricity. As a result, local children no longer need to walk 4 km twice a day to go to school, rates of filariasis are being reduced, and local women are taking evening literacy classes at the school.

Soroptimists from Austria are helping migrant women and girls integrate into their new communities, by organizing German language courses, providing information on citizens' rights, duties and laws in Austria, and sharing festivities and meals with women hailing from 16 different countries from across 4 continents. So far, among the women who have participated in the courses, many have passed their Austrian citizenship test and obtained employment.



Some
examples of
projects:

Soroptimists in Gisenyi, Rwanda, are running a project to enable girls to learn a trade so that they can earn a living. Project participants follow a two-year course to learn sewing and dressmaking. The project also promotes literacy by teaching women and girls to read and write.

Soroptimists across the Netherlands are cooperating with the University Assistance Fund to provide financial and hands-on assistance to refugee women who are not eligible for government funding. Many of them have had to sacrifice their university education and need assistance to further their academic careers.

Some examples of projects:

Soroptimists in Etiler and Mardin in Turkey, together with Soroptimists from San Diego in the United States, have since 2005 been running a weaving workshop for illiterate women in Mardin in South-eastern Turkey. Partnering with the Governorship of Mardin and the Mardin Public Training Centre, they train women how to produce handmade carpets. The project also encourages participants to pursue formal education. Several hundred women have so far benefitted from the project.

Soroptimists across Switzerland have for several years now been running a microcredit project to help women wishing to start their own small businesses get a loan to do so. Soroptimists are providing CHF 30,000 loans to selected entrepreneurs, payable within 4 years. Given the careful selection process, the project so far has a 90% success rate! The project is run in collaboration with Mikrokredit Solidarität Schweiz which coaches the new entrepreneurs throughout the lending period.

Following the devastating earthquake in Emilia in 2012, more than 140 Soroptimist Clubs across Italy joined forces to help rebuild economic opportunities for women who had lost their source of income in the disaster. They initiated the building of a highly innovative shopping centre out of assembled second-hand shipping containers. Seventeen women entrepreneurs were thus able to re-open their businesses in the “mall”. The project was conducted in collaboration with the Municipality of Cavezzo.

Some examples of projects:

Soroptimists in Milimani, Kenya, are helping enhance women's entrepreneurial skills by funding the rebuilding of women's homes and businesses. As a result, over a two-year period, 40 women started sustainable small-scale businesses. This is helping meet their families' living expenses, contributes to their children's education, and helps maintain their homes.

Soroptimists from Apeldoorn in the Netherlands recently started a series of empowerment training sessions for teenage mothers. Their goal is to help young mothers build confidence and to encourage them to pursue their studies in order to gain access to better economic opportunities. The trainings were given to young women coming from positions of social isolation. Since its start in 2013, 140 women have benefitted from the project and some of them have already started their own businesses.

SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF THE
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

<http://www.siswp.org>

ABOUT:

This Federation consists of approximately 2,375 Soroptimists among 125 clubs in thirteen jurisdictions: Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, Mongolia, and Samoa, plus one online club.



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FEDERATION
FOCUSED
WORK:



SANCTUARY: Shelter for Women

— SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL —
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC



SOROPTIMIST
South Atlantic Region

ADVOCACY
ENCOURAGED:

This Federation has a “Walk the Talk” platform. For 2016, it is *"Community Against Violence 2016"*

Soroptimists are encouraged to undertake advocacy to support the Elimination of Violence against Women. Soroptimists are urged to speak with their Government Ministers. In Australia Soroptimists should advocate for zero tolerance, increased funds and their commitment to the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.



CLUB LEVEL PROJECTS:

Clubs are tasked with pursuing projects that are within the sustainable development goals of the UN and SI. Many clubs pursue the “Educate to Lead” idea.

Soroptimist International of Sydney Inc.

This club has its “Education Grants Project”. They work with seven, inner-city schools, providing grants to assist young school leaders to further their aspirations for the future. Each year they provide seven young women in their final two years of schooling with grants. Members of SI Sydney will keep in touch with the students, monitor their progress and provide support where necessary. The students provide regular reports on their progress so that they are eligible to receive their second grant at the end of the year. These are not the top students in their year but they are all dedicated to furthering their opportunities and helping their families and community.

Soroptimist International of Hornsby (Australia)

This club provides a “IWD Scholarship” for a senior girl of a family seeking asylum; provides support for Settlement Services International; sponsors a young school girl with the Smith Family’s Learning for Life program; and awards academic grants to local high school students.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

www.soroptimist.org

AS OF MAY 31,
2016, THERE
WERE 32,557
MEMBERS
AMONG 1,294
CLUBS WITHIN
THE SIA
FEDERATION

- United States 46.08%
- Japan 25.39%
- Phillippines 5.73%
- Taiwan 3.89%
- Korea 2.61%
- Canada 2.13%
- Brazil 2.07%
- Mexico 0.48%
- Paraguay 0.32%
- Guam 0.31%
- Panama 0.29%
- Venezuela 0.20%
- Bolivia 0.10%
- Ecuador 0.10%
- Argentina 0.09%
- Northern Mariana Islands 0.06%
- Chile 0.05%
- Puerto Rico 0.05%
- Colombia 0.05%
- Peru 0.05%



VISION OF
SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
OF THE AMERICAS

Women and girls will have
the resources and
opportunities to reach their
full potential and live their
dreams.



SOROPTIMIST
South Atlantic Region

MISSION OF
SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
OF THE
AMERICAS

Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.