



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

ACTION LINE

SEPTEMBER 2007



GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Not sure about you but I had an amazing summer! Every four years Soroptimist International holds their convention along with an international board meeting, this quadrennial convention was held in Glasgow, Scotland. I had the privilege of attending the Soroptimist International board meeting as a program voting delegate.

Soroptimist International President Lynn Dunning presided the meeting. The roll call was presented and there were 120 countries acknowledged! It was akin to a mini United Nations. At that point I truly understood the diversity of our organization and was humbled. What an honor to be part of this process.

We sat through three days of very intense sessions. There were two primary subjects addressed; Strategic Plan for Soroptimist International and the new quadrennial Program Focus. Presentations from the Strategic Planning Group were made. Soroptimist International of the Americas' Past President Yvonne Machuk represented our federation. Yvonne has submitted her overview that is published in this edition.

Our second task, developing the Program Focus was quite a process. Input had been gathered over the past few years from members throughout the world. Main concepts were summarized and condensed into 30 focuses. Out of those focuses the voting delegates edited those into 7 main focuses thus giving direction to Soroptimist International and all members for programs that will be aligned with our vision and mission statements. You will find the new programme focus included in this edition.

Project Independence ended on August 31st, the target was to raise \$1.2 million: Actual amount is \$1.6 million with more to come. The second target was to help 1200 women: Actual number is more than 1,692. Lastly, P.I. was to provide 600 micro credit loans while the actual number was 650. Congratulations!!

The new Quadrennial Project for 2007 – 2011 was announced: Project Sierra, a four year partnership between Soroptimist International and Hope and Homes for Children that aims to raise over \$1 million pounds or \$2 million US Dollars to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in the world.

The December 10th President's Appeal was also launched: **Restoring Dignity** takes place on December 10th but runs all year. Restoring Dignity aims to help women with fistulas, encourages independence, and raises self-esteem. The project raises funds for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and the Desta Mender self-help village.

What is Obstetric Fistula? A fistula is an unnatural tear or hole between two organs. Obstructed labour can cause a fistula to the birth passage, bladder and sometimes the rectum. As a result the women leaks urine constantly. Women experience rejection, separation, loneliness and shame. It is an awkward subject but one that is real in Ethiopia. Girls marry very young and have children in underdeveloped bodies. Malnutrition and distance to medical care contribute to the problem. This was a major problem in the early 1900's in the

developed countries and continues to be an issue in developing countries. This is a unique issue only for women and should therefore be supported by a unique organization such as Soroptimist. What other service group would approach such a subject? You can find more detail on our website and also your club president has received a DVD on the program.

There is greater detail about all these projects on the region website <http://wesoroptimist.org/>. Please note that the user login has been removed from the website so it is more user friendly. If you would like to see any additions to the website please let me know.

After arriving home for five days I was off again to Vancouver for the Leadership Retreat that was a resounding success. This is the second year and it has proven to be very popular. Our presenters were Rosemary Sargent, Wendy Metzgar and Yvonne Machuk.

The following week I was off to Philadelphia for the Governor's Roundtable and for the first time the Governor-elects were also included so Governor-Elect Angela joined me. Kelly Poustie from SI of the Langley's was the Region's Emerging Leader and her impressions of the week are included in this edition.

So as you can see it was a very busy and productive summer. I look forward to the upcoming year.

All the best,
Governor Patti

"Vision without action is a daydream, action without vision is a nightmare." *Japanese Proverb*

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"...improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world."

RECENT EVENTS

Congratulations!

Past Governor Sharon Fisher was installed as Federation Board Member on August 25th in Philadelphia. She was also elected as the Soroptimist International of the Americas new Secretary Treasurer by the new Board.



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**S.I. OF THE LANGLEYS - *Re-Charged, Re-Focused and Ready* to start the 2007-08 Season!!**

With the 2007-08 theme: ***The Three Rs: Re-Charge, Re-Educate, Re-Focus*** SI of the Langleys is starting the year off with a new club structure. Our club's ***Renaissance Executive Committee, (the 4<sup>th</sup> R)***, models itself after SIA's Renaissance wheel with 4 Directors, each with a strategic focus in one of the four main Program areas. One of our goals is to streamline the flow of information and responsibilities allowing more time and energy to pursue opportunities for personal and club growth..... ***The Three Rs.***

We started the new season early by cooking up a storm and serving food and refreshments at Langley's 18<sup>th</sup> *Arts Alive* event in August. This annual event brings everyone out to the downtown core for a day filled with enjoying spectacular art in many interesting and unique forms. This high profile event gives our club excellent exposure to our community and its guests.

Plans are once again underway for our annual **TUNING INTO OUR TEENS Conference**. This will be our 6<sup>th</sup> conference with a new theme of "**LIVE YOUR DREAM!**" The full day conference is presented for **Girls and Adults** & will be held on October 13, 2006 at HD Stafford Secondary School on Grade Crescent in Langley. Mark your calendars! This pilot project became a *Permanent Identifying Project* in SFC during Flo Grant's last AGM as SFC Board Chair. Flo was a firm believer in the project and was a faithful attendee at the conferences. We will miss her, and always remember her for her dedication to this project and Soroptimism. Other SI clubs are also using SFC Club Grant funds to present similar forums, and planning the next ones. We'd love for you to join us on October 13<sup>th</sup> to take in the workshops and check out our format. We can share ideas and we're more than pleased to share our resources, contacts and experiences to help you explore the opportunities of the project. For more details contact conference chair Karen Eakins @ 604-534-7045 or co-chair Evelyn Hohmann @ 604-534-6885 or email us at [tiotlangley@hotmail.com](mailto:tiotlangley@hotmail.com)

Our club General Meeting is the first Tuesday of every month –guests are always welcome! For more information on our meetings or club, please contact Linda @ 604-534-1321.

SUBMITTED BY: Evelyn Hohmann, Public Awareness Chair 2007 – 08

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SI of NORTH & WEST VANCOUVER



Direct Access Grants: In May President Liz Watt and Vice President Elaine Bennett visited the Avalon Women’s Centre in West Vancouver to present Helen Burnham, one of the co-founders of Avalon, with a cheque for \$4,000. This grant was made possible through the B.C. Government’s Direct Access Program. A further \$4,000 from the Direct Access Program was presented to North Shore Adults at Risk.

“Mom-‘n’-Dad – do you know?” The second annual conference for parents of teenage girls was held on Saturday, May 26th at the District of North Vancouver Council Chambers. This year the topics ranged from a look at teens and the internet through body image and diet to substance abuse. There was also a presentation by Anita Roberts, founder of Safe Teens, entitled “Navigating Adolescence” and, finally, a personal story, “The Road Less Travelled.” Once again the conference was well attended and the feedback was very positive, demonstrating a need for similar conferences in the future.

Induction of new Board: On June 6th, instead of the usual monthly business meeting, members and their guests met for dinner in the very pleasant surroundings of the Northlands Golf Club. After dinner came the installation of the new Board and Karen Lee did an excellent job of conducting proceedings with a humorous and thoughtful presentation. Following the installation of the new executive, Liz Watt, the outgoing President, thanked her Board and members for an enjoyable and busy two years. Among the highlights of her term she mentioned the parenting conferences, the setting up of the Ruth Ditto Memorial Fund and the Fresh Start Hamper project that has recently been set up in association with the North Shore Crisis Services Society.

SUBMITTED BY: DORIS COWAN

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## S.I. COURTENAY – SUBMITTED BY: Margaret Wootton



Margaret Wootton stands in front of the Mountain of Teddies collected by the Club for the children of Malawi and to be delivered by Lord Provost of Glasgow.  
[www.si-convention.org/news/show/7](http://www.si-convention.org/news/show/7)

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**S.I. CALGARY – SUBMITTED BY:** Heather Hudson

**APPRECIATION FOR DONATION TO AVENTA TREATMENT CENTRE FOR WOMEN**  
(Excerpt of a letter from Kim Turgeon, Aventa’s Executive Director)

On behalf of the Aventa Board, Staff, and women and families in need of our services, thank you for your generous donation of \$10,000.00 towards the purchase of a van for Aventa to support our Food Services Department and Recreation Program.

The van has become a necessary step in allowing us to continue with our substantial cost savings offered through the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank.

Aventa has also been planning to expand our Recreation Program for several years. The purchase of a van will allow us the opportunity to plan some off site activities such as hiking, cross country skiing and other day trips.

Over the past 36 years, Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women has been successful in providing treatment, education, and support to over 35,000 women and their families. Aventa provides alcohol, drug, nicotine, and gambling addiction treatment services on an outpatient, short-term and long-term residential basis exclusively to women. Aventa is the only gender specific women’s treatment centre in Alberta.

Aventa embraces a bio-psycho-social model of treatment, recognizing the various factors that play into the problems and patterns of addiction, as well as the many points of intervention that can assist women to make change and dramatically improve their lives. Aventa offers 46 residential treatment beds and 10 day program spaces through four distinct programs.

Aventa has a \$2.1 million annual budget. Approximately 65% of our operating budget is funded through provincial government departments of AADAC (53% funding) and Child and Family Services (12% funding)

Aventa truly appreciates the support we have received through Soroptomist International of Calgary.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SI CONVENTION – Glasgow, Scotland 2007

Flagbearers at the Peace Vigil on the last day of the Convention. Representatives from WCR included Gov. Patti, Past Gov. Sharon, and Megan Halprin.



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## **Soroptimist International's Historic Meeting in Glasgow - Summer of 2007**

At the SI Board Meeting in Windsor in 2006, then International President Lynn Dunning initiated a strategic planning process for SI. A group called the SPG was formed to undertake this significant work. The SPG consists of IPP Lynn Dunning as Project Director, President Margaret Lobo, Jo Darbyshire (Procedural Consultant 2005-07), Heidrun Konrad (SIE), Carwen Wynne-Howells (SIGBI), Elaine Moffatt (SISWP), Executive Officer Rosie Coutts and Yvonne Machuk (SIA).

The mandate of the SPG is for two years, until the SI Board Meeting in July 2008. At that time, the SI Board will decide whether or not to take on the work. If they do, this would mean assigning tasks to various work groups that may be committees of the SI Board such as Extension, Finance or Constitution and Resolutions or to a new group constituted for that specific purpose.

The SPG (Strategic Planning Group) has met on two occasions in London, UK (January 2007 for 2 days; May 2007 for 3 days) with the facilitator, Ian Vale of =mc Management Centre Consultants of the UK. The facilitator led the group through many exercises intended to examine the organization (SI) from many perspectives in an attempt to identify strengths and areas of concern. Hard questions were put to the members of the SPG about SI – its membership, its partnerships, its programs, its member benefits and the challenges it faces. Between meetings, a great deal of work was completed by email.

A questionnaire was developed and sent to the federations for distribution to their members. The response from SIA was very good, likely because SIA has a blast email system in place. About 9000 questionnaires were completed.

Draft vision, mission, core values and competencies were sent to federations and past international presidents for input. From this information and from the questionnaire results, a Strategic Framework was developed for presentation to the SI Board Meeting in Glasgow in July 2007. This included the Strategy Map. Ian Vale made a presentation after which he and members of the SPG answered questions. The Strategy Map was approved by the voting members of the Board, with the proviso that the SPG take into consideration translation concerns.

Breakout sessions were held where participants were able to give input on the 15 objectives contained in the Strategy Map. A special session was held on Saturday, July 28 and these participants have become part of a group called Ambassadors whose role will be to spread the word in their regions about the Strategic Framework as presented. They will be one group in the consultation process of the work to come. Further consultation will be sought from an additional group from each federation. The numbers for this group are: SIA 55, SIE 50, SIGBI 35 and SISWP 10. The membership of this group will include those with involvement at the region, federation and international levels of SI, members of 5-10 years membership and members with less than 5 years membership. The composition of the group will be determined by the SPG Representative from each federation, in consultation with the federation president. Consultation will be by email.

While there is still significant work to be done by the SPG, the critical first step of agreeing to the vision and mission has been encouraging and affirming for the members of the SPG. We are on the way to being “a vibrant, dynamic organization for today’s business and professional women.”

SUBMITTED BY: Yvonne Machuk, S.I.A. Past President

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New Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project Announced

Project Sierra:

A Family And A Future, Soroptimist International's Quadrennial Project, was launched on Wednesday 1 August 2007 at the XVIII Convention.

Project Sierra is a four-year partnership between Soroptimist International and Hope and Homes for Children that will transform the lives of deprived women and children in Sierra Leone.

By strengthening families at risk of breakdown, helping young children living on the streets return home and empowering vulnerable young mothers, Project Sierra will enable more children to grow up in a caring family environment – giving them the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Alison Sutherland, Federation Quadrennial Project Liaison, said: “Project Sierra: A Family And A Future is a wonderful project through which Soroptimists world wide will be able to advance our programme goals. It is a huge honor to represent Soroptimist International as a liaison for the Project. I look forward to working with our partner, Hope and Homes for Children, with Soroptimist Liaisons for our four federations.

“I hope that Soroptimists worldwide will support Project Sierra to make a real difference to improve the lives for many women and children in one of the poorest countries in the world.”

Speaking at the Convention, Rick Foulsham, Chief Executive of Hope and Homes for Children, explained why the charity's work in Sierra Leone was so vital, he said: “This is a country faced with every kind of challenge: the legacy of the terrible civil war, extreme poverty, a much higher AIDS infection rate than is commonly acknowledged.”

“I am delighted about Hope and Homes for Children's partnership with Soroptimist International because together we can bring about a transformation in the lives and the potential of the most needy children and families in Sierra Leone. We have shared ambition to give this work a universal relevance, so that Hope and Homes for Children's model of precisely targeted support for families and young women can be adopted by communities and governments around the world.”

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## **SIA CONFERENCE, Philadelphia - August 2007**

It was my honor to represent Western Canada Region to attend the Emerging Leaders Forum in Philadelphia in August. In our sessions we learned about dealing with difficult volunteer behaviour, the art of public speaking, and maintaining the interest of our volunteers. Joan Cromer, SI Past President, spoke to us about pursuing leadership in Soroptimist and shared her personal experiences and secrets to making a difference.

During the remainder of the conference we learned how to build a strong, positive club culture and tips on how to run an efficient general meeting. Alison Levine gave an inspirational presentation about her bid to climb Mount Everest, and how what she learned can be applied to everyday challenges.

At the luncheon awards banquet, the Violet Richardson and Women's Opportunity Award winners made moving presentations. And my club of The Langleys received an award as a Gold club in the Annual Club Campaign and special recognition for being 1 of 4 clubs to exceed \$4 per member for Founders Pennies.

But best of all: I had the opportunity to meet fellow Soroptimists from Western and Eastern Canada, North and South America, and Japan. These ladies were diverse in personality, age, and culture but they were alike in their desire. The energy and emotion of this strong, united group of women was overwhelming and empowering. I came away truly believing that together we will make a huge difference in improving the lives of women and girls.

SUBMITTED BY: Kelly Poustie – S.I. The Langleys

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PROGRAMME FOCUS 2007-2011

Mission:

Through international partnerships and a global network of members, Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls by: advocating for equity and equality; creating safe and healthy environments; increasing access to education; developing leadership and practical skills for a sustainable future.

Goals:

Soroptimists will ensure that women and girls

- enjoy equity and equality
- live in safe and healthy environments
- have access to education
- have leadership and practical skills

Objectives:

1. Eliminate poverty and gender discrimination through ensuring women's full social and economic rights (ESD)
2. End human trafficking and all forms of violence against women and girls (HRSW)
3. Ensure access to health care for women and girls (H)
4. Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases (H)
5. Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources (ENV)
6. Mitigate the effects of climate change and integrate sustainability into personal choices and government policies and programmes (ENV)
7. Meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts and disasters (IGU)
8. Promote peaceful conflict resolution, inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn genocide and terrorism (IGU)
9. Ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan (ED)
10. Assure women's advancement in management, politics and decision making (ESD)

Glossary:

ESD – Economic and Social Development
ED – Education

ENV – Environment

H – Health

HRSW – Human Rights and Status of Women
IGU – International Goodwill and Understanding

Approved by Soroptimist International Board and Programme Voting Delegates at SI Board Meeting in Glasgow 2007

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INFORMATION

The History of Soroptimist International by Janet Haywood (Part 1)

SUBMITTED BY: Sue Perry, President, SI Bristol 1996 - 1997

(ACTIONLINE is pleased to publish this four-part series.)

A HISTORY OF SOROPTIMISM AND THE BRISTOL CLUB

The Beginning: Bristol

The idea of a Women's Rotary club followed a letter in the Bristol Times and Mirror by Miss Ethel Parr (Mrs Charles Budgett) following the success of the Rotary Club of Bristol established in 1917 (founded in America in 1905).

Mr. Stanley Hill, Honorary Secretary, with the support of the President, Walter Pearce, invited 18 women to tea at the Royal Hotel on College Green on 10 May 1920.

The first meeting of the *Venture Club* was held a month later with a membership of 50. The first President was Miss E Addison Phillips, Headmistress of Clifton High School for Girls.

The Bristol Club's insignia (illustrated on the following page) is inscribed on the back as having been designed by Carmen Pedro and presented to (Madame) Marion Glass, 1925. The current chain was acquired during the Club's Golden Jubilee year in 1970.

The Club subsequently subscribed to a memorial in Bristol Cathedral to Miss Augusta Deane, one of the founder members, who died in 1935.

The Bristol Club held 32 meetings in its first year on subjects such as "State and the Criminal", "Industrial Unrest", "Women and The Future". By the end of the first year membership had increased to 114!

In November 1921 the Service Committee was set up and the first piece of social work was the inauguration of the "Little Sisters" scheme, befriending motherless girls.

Amongst other work, support was given to Bristol Children's Society for an open-air school and for a Rotary boys' home at Weston-Super-Mare.

In 1922 the Lord Mayor invited the Venture Club to help the women of Bethune, France. The City of Bristol had adopted the town and promised financial help in rebuilding it.

(To be continued in the December edition)

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UP COMING EVENTS

SOROPTIMISTS LIVING THEIR DREAMS EVENT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
2253 Welcher Avenue, Port Coquitlam
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Have you been thinking that you would like to start giving back to your community? Well here is your chance to learn more about how the Soroptimists are living their dreams and giving back to the TriCities. The membership committee is pleased to present this opportunity to you so that you can decide if this is the club for you!

Soroptimist International of the TriCities: Who are we, what are we all about?

Guest Speaker: Tara Lamb, RN and SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) will speak on the growing concern of Human Trafficking, not Internationally but a local issue.

Committees: Learn more about the various club committees, their goals and needs

RSVP: Mary Aaron at 604.464.1719
Bea Kelly at 604.945.7071

Women's Opportunity Award 2007-2008

Last year Women's Opportunity Awards program participation increased from 64 to 65 percent and the total amount of award money disbursed was \$368,000. In Western Canada all 18 clubs participated.

Important Deadlines to remember for this year:

December 15	Application deadline for club-level awards
February 1	District-level judging deadline
March 1	Region-level judging deadline All club winners and/or district winners must be received by this date for consideration for region-level awards.
April 1	Federation-level judging deadline All region winners must be received at SIA headquarters by this date in order to enter first-place winners in consideration for federation judging.

Because of the popularity of this program, many women download the application from the web site. These applicants are instructed to forward their completed applications to the Regional Chair by December 1.

At-large applications are sent to the club closest the applicant's home. Some clubs are hesitant to accept applications from outside their club area. This is understandable, however the challenge remains for Soroptimist to improve the lives of women everywhere. Therefore, all clubs are urged to accept at-large applications and help women across the federation achieve their goals and fulfill their dreams.

All information and forms to participate in Women's Opportunity Award are on the web under members and library.

Western Canada Region Women's Opportunity Chairperson email is najmmar@telusplanet.net

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NEWS FROM SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Soroptimist Fountation of Canada Club Grant makes 'Career Choices for Young Women' conference possible. A \$1000 Grant to SI Kamloops was the seed money necessary to launch our 60th Anniversary Conference titled:



"Possibilities" Career Choices for Young Women was held Wednesday, April 25th, 2007, 8:30-3:00 pm, at the Kamloops Educational Centre

SI Kamloops hosted an amazingly successful full day conference for 90 young high school and Thompson Rivers University students. The day started with 10 community professionals giving their time to "inspire, educate, and motivate" the participating students in new and challenging career choices. Inviting and healthy snacks were available at break after a professionally-led Fitness Workout to James Blunt's "Beautiful". Ten more speakers were followed by lunch and live entertainment by Canadian Idol Rock Star Suzi Rawn. The afternoon

was filled with our final 10 speakers and wrapped up with a student draw for six individual \$150.00 bursaries. Speakers stayed for breaks and chatted casually with students throughout the day.

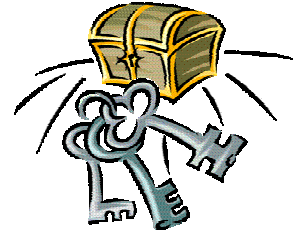
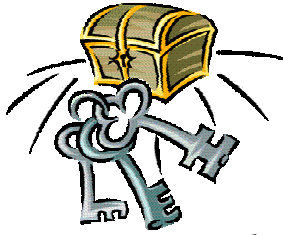
✓The response from the business, professional, and service community was supportive and positive. For example, we asked Weyerhaeuser Canada for portfolios. They ordered specially printed portfolios and, of their own volition, 'small gift items' to be enclosed in each student package.

✓The Media welcomed our Conference and did all they could to promote it. For example: TV, newspapers, school newsletters published everything we asked. We were also featured on a Community News TV show; photographers from two newspapers were on hand the day of the conference to get live shots; and the local CBC-TV affiliate featured our conference on the evening news and the late night news.

With the seed money Soroptimist Foundation of Canada provided we were able to host this fantastically successful Career Choices for Young Women conference in Kamloops! For further information on how to apply for a Club Grant to host an educational conference, workshop or forum in your community visit www.soroptimistfoundation.ca

SUBMITTED BY SHIRLEY SANDERSON, S.I. KAMLOOPS & SFC WCR GRANT MANAGER

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***7th Annual Treasure Chest
Of
Hope & Opportunity***

**In aid of Lookout Emergency Aid Society's North Shore
Shelter**

Join Soroptimist International of North & West Vancouver for a wonderful evening of fine dining and dancing, with silent and live auctions, a balloon raffle and the sale of keys to the Treasure Chest and help support this worthwhile cause.

Saturday, November 3rd, 2007

6.00pm to 12.30am

Hollyburn Country Club, 950 Crosscreek Road, West Vancouver

For tickets Phone 604-985-6701, E-mail: soroptimist@shaw.ca or
Visit our website at www.soroptimistnvwv.org

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