



Governor's Message

In any organization change brings challenges and challenges bring change. This is true in and for Soroptimist. The Leadership Retreat held the weekend of August 8th and 9th at the University of British Columbia presented change. Members were welcomed to the Leadership Party – yes, a party - not a meeting!

The weekend party included good food to sustain us through the weekend. There was plenty of laughter as we shared jokes and stories. New friendships were made and old ones renewed. Gifts were graciously received. The gifts came in the form of awards. Western Canada Region was recognized by Soroptimist International of the Americas for reaching 100% participation from Clubs for the 2008-2009 Founders Pennies Campaign and for a gain in membership in both Clubs and members from May 31, 2008 – May 31, 2009. SI of The Langley's was recognized for their Gold Level, \$1,000.00 or more, contribution, to the Annual Club Campaign. SI of the Tri Cities, SI of Central Alberta and SI of Calgary were recognized for their Bronze, \$500.00 or more, contribution to the Annual Club Campaign. As well, seventeen Clubs were recognized for their participation in the Women's Opportunity Award. Four Clubs celebrated their outstanding achievement in all four areas of the Renaissance Campaign. These Clubs are SI Calgary, SI Central Alberta, SI the Langley's, and SI Tri Cities. Congratulations to everyone and continued success.

WCR Membership Chair Patricia Dye gave us the gift of technology. Patricia provided participants with a demonstration of the various technologies and online resources that are available to assist Soroptimists. During the presentation Patricia navigated the SIA website and highlighted several resources in each of our four areas. In addition Patricia provided insight into other websites that may be used to communicate with Soroptimist and to members of the general public.

WCR Programme Chair Karima Hudda led us in an interactive session which focused on developing a Club information package. The discussion was very valuable for the development of a prospective member's package as well as a new member's package. There was enthusiastic discussion and participation.

SIA President-Elect Sharon Fisher had an opportunity earlier this year to travel to Sierra Leone to visit the sites of our international project – Project Sierra. Sharon reported on the effect Soroptimists support has made for the women and girls of this poor country. The photographs, commentary, and the DVD provided valuable insight into the challenges these women and girls face. Many were moved to tears during this presentation.

WCR Team members provided a review of the strategic plan with updates in several areas. Membership Extension Chair Bea Kelly proudly announced that she is working with a group of dedicated women in three communities in British Columbia toward chartering new Clubs. These communities are Squamish, Victoria Westshore and Kelowna. Contact Bea Kelly if you know of women in any of these communities who would be interested in joining Soroptimist.

WCR Team members led small discussion groups to share information and resources that benefit current and future Club leaders. In addition, one group discussed succession planning and transitioning leadership roles.

Barb Langlois provided a high energy, entertaining and insightful workshop on Sunday entitled Ultimate Possibilities for Women. An interactive workshop utilizing several different methods Barb moved us forward to access the power we have and to challenge ourselves to bring change to our lives.

As with any great party we didn't want it to end. Now the challenge comes to those who attended and that is to take some of the concepts presented and build them into your life and your Club. Remember change is inevitable, growth is optional.

Wishing you continued success in your work to improve the lives of women and girls.

Governor Angela.

None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting to change all the tenor of our lives. Kathleen Norris.

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Membership

Welcome to a new Soroptimist year! Do you have a membership chair for your club? You should! Having someone who focuses on your members will aid with retention by keeping in touch with what keeps the membership happy. Please forward the name of your club's Membership Chair to Patricia.Dye@telus.net

Planning a membership event for this year should be on your club's to-do list. Some key points to remember when planning a membership event:

- Consider coordinating with a fundraising event
- Contact past members
- Involve everyone in the membership drive
- Advertise in your local paper or with posters around the community
- Set goals and communicate them to current and prospective members
- Give perks to current and prospective members – or prizes to those who bring a friend
- Use the invaluable resources on the Soroptimist website
- Have a membership package ready for prospective members
- Make it easy to join
- Work on your club's website and include links to/from sponsor websites. Getting businesses involved shows credibility for those who have never heard of Soroptimists.
- Follow up!

Don't forget your current members. It's easier to keep a current member than to attract a new one. Recognize the accomplishments and contributions of current members regularly!

Congratulations and welcome to our newest clubs across SIA, who have chartered since June, 2009.

- Soroptimist International of Nanaura, Japan
- Soroptimist International of Kaohsiung Bayu, Taiwan
- Soroptimist International of the McDowell Mountains, Arizona
- Soroptimist International of Gimchun, Korea
- Soroptimist International of Nonhyun, Korea
- Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova, California
- Soroptimist International of Fukuoka-Daini, Japan
- Soroptimist International of Chang-Hwa County Garden, Taiwan

Soroptimist International of Yuan-Lin, Taiwan

If you would like to send a welcome email or letter, please let me know and I'll forward you the information

Are you on Facebook yet? Become a fan of Soroptimists on Facebook and help spread the word about Soroptimists!!

Have a great summer and hope to see you at the Leadership Retreat in August! Patricia Dye, Membership Chair. You can reach Patricia at patricia.dye@telus.net

UN News!

September 15, 2009

WORLD BRIEFING | UNITED NATIONS

New U.N. Agency for Women's Rights

By REUTERS

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) voted Monday to create a new, more powerful agency for women, in a move supporters hailed as a breakthrough for women's equality and rights. An Assembly resolution called for the amalgamation of four existing United Nations offices dealing with women's affairs into a single body to be headed by an under secretary general. The unanimous vote followed three years of negotiations.

Fundraising

Club Giving

Below is a list of giving opportunities that fulfill SIA's mission and support/sustain Soroptimist's programs such as the Women's Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist Club Grants for Women & Girls, the Violet Richardson Award and the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence. .

Annual Club Campaign

Clubs support SIA's mission through the Annual Club Campaign. SIA recognizes clubs that contribute a share of their local fundraising efforts to the campaign. Contributions from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 will be credited for recognition. Clubs contributing at recognition levels (\$500+) receive a certificate with SIA recognition.

Founders Pennies

Founders Day is October 3rd, acknowledging the day in 1921 when the first club in Alameda County, California called to order its first business meeting. While this is normally taken care of through dues payment, do not stop there! If your club has a special way you raise your Founders Pennies, please share it

Memorials & Tribute Gifts

You can contribute in honor of a valued member's recent achievement, in memory of a cherished club friend or family member or to celebrate a club anniversary or personal milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, promotions, etc.

Laurel Society

Your club can honor individuals with membership in the Laurel Society. Watch for this year's opportunity to 'win' a membership.

For more information, contact Carla Busnardo, WCR Fundraising Chair at carlab@netscape.ca or visit the fundraising resource area at www.soroptimist.org

Programme

Planning for the upcoming year with regards to Program? Several changes may help your Club be a "Renaissance Club". As you know Western Canada Region has a dynamic strategic plan and over the summer changes were made to reflect the goals and objectives of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Supporting the Women's Opportunity Award is the priority for both SIA and WCR and we are striving for 100% Club participation. This is SIA's signature program. Resources are available on the SIA website under the Program heading. Check it out and see what's new! All Clubs are encouraged to participate in at least one Federation project or local project whose sole benefit is to improve the lives of women and girls. International support is through a financial contribution to either the December 10th President's Appeal – Hopes and dreams for everyone – prevent human trafficking from Moldova or the Quadrennial Project – Project Sierra. More information is also available on the SIA website.

The Club Recognition Project - Soroptimists Celebrating Success! - Established in 1993 this annual awards program is a best practices program that recognizes successful club projects that improve the lives of women and girls and that promote Soroptimist as an organization with that mission. Categories encompass the four areas the SIA Strategic Plan. Region finalists are judged by SIA's Board of Directors who selects the federation finalists. Entries are due to headquarters by January 21, 2010. If you have a really good project, please complete a Soroptimist Celebrating Success! entry at the Federation level. You may be a winner and it is always good to share best practices.

Plan to share your success through Program Focus Reports. The reports can be submitted on line or you can download the forms from SIA website and send by mail or fax. The new online database system also gives you the opportunity to search the database yourself. You can search by keyword, program area, federation, etc. and have immediate access to information on Soroptimist projects around the world. This is your database and your chance to tell Soroptimists worldwide about your club project. The form is quick and simple to fill in so submit your report online today! Remember to submit Program Focus Reports for any project that you do; the information is used by Soroptimist International at the United Nations. SIA website www.soroptimist.org

I would love to hear from you! If you need any help on any Program related items, here are the following emails for the Program Council

Program Council Chair - Karima Hudda (khudda@radtagtech.com)

Women's Opportunity Award Chair - BJ Gallagher (bjgal@telus.net)

Violet Richardson Award Chair - Bev Lowsley (bev.sigv@gmail.com)

Soroptimist Ruby Award Chair - Donna Schreyer (eagle257@shaw.ca)

Public Awareness

A few highlights from around the Region:

SI Edmonton:

- Article in the July/August issue of Alberta's Country Register.
- Identified as the recipient of funds raised at the Carvel Street Sale in the local newspaper, The Reporter/Examiner; the magazine Visit Edmonton's Countryside; and on the website for Rural Rendezvous.
- Sparkle of Hope listed as an event with article on recent trafficking arrests in the Sept. 20, 2009, Sunday Edition of Edmonton Journal.
- In progress - getting every member to have a Soroptimist business card!

SI Winnipeg:

- The major newspaper, the Winnipeg Free Press, featured a full page article on SI of Winnipeg in the June 27, 2009 Philanthropy section entitled *They're Best for Women*. The tag line was "...by joining with other women and engaging in awareness, advocacy and action service of her community and society, she can make the world a better place for humankind." Past president Donna Schreyer and Lorena Geri from the Canadian Cancer Association, Manitoba were featured holding "comfort" pillows that the club makes and distributes to help women recover after mastectomies.

SI of Greater Victoria:

- Were recently featured as part of an article in the Victoria Times Colonist. Check out the article online at:

<http://www.timescolonist.com/health/Sunfest+raises+money+Crohn/1761505/story.html>

SI Osoyoos:

- On September 26, SI Osoyoos held a Yard and Market Fair in Osoyoos to raise funds for the STOP Human Trafficking initiative. They have provided posters regarding this event around town and in Oliver. They also did an interview with the newspaper (The Osoyoos Times) and wrote an article regarding the event. Also, they had an ad in The Osoyoos Times and The Chronicle (in Oliver) regarding the event. They contacted the Radio Station and the local TV Station (Ch. 18) for advertising. Finally they had a door knocker flyer that was distributed by members to the community to let them know we were hosting the sale and what items to bring and other pertinent information.
- One of the members is working on a "publicity table" to let the general public know about Soroptimist as well as the STOP Trafficking Initiative and hopes to find new members this way as well.
- The club wishes to recognise Sue McKortoff really because she does a lot of this work on her own even if someone else is delegated to the task. Also, Kim Bush who is a new member and has already taken on a lot of responsibility, including the publicity table for Sept. 26.

Joanne Ward, Publicity Chair. You can reach Joanne at jwnsd2b@albertahighspeed.net



Whether it's in the newspapers like SI Tricities' monthly advert in The Tri-City News, or out and about in person like SI Central Alberta, Soroptimists are getting the word out!



Sad News

Obituary - Lynn Dunning, SI President 2005-2007

Lynn Dunning, who served as International President from 2005 to 2007, died in hospital on 22 September 2009. Despite suffering from cancer for the last 10 years, her talent, vigour and dogged determination led to considerable personal achievements, both in her Soroptimist and professional life.

Tributes have poured in from all corners of the Soroptimist world, bearing testament to the impact that Lynn had on people's lives, impressing all with her intellectual rigour, passion for Soroptimism and personal warmth and charm. To quote but one:

"The world is better for having had Lynn in it, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have known her".

Lynn became a Soroptimist in 1983 when she joined SI Ramsbottom in South Lancashire, where she has remained a member ever since.

She served as Club President twice. It was whilst serving on the club Programme Action Committee (PAC) that her real passion for programme developed. Lynn became chair of the PAC and whilst holding the post for several years, worked with club members on many exciting projects covering most of the programme areas. Lynn took a great interest in programme at regional level; eventually becoming committee chair and representing her area on the National Programme Committee. She worked on a variety of interesting projects including health fairs, enhancing local environmental areas, co-ordinating a research project to end child prostitution and supporting a variety of school projects in several countries outside the United Kingdom. Lynn's next post was that of Regional President and she also represented the region on the Federation Executive Council. She served as a member of the major committees and also chaired the Constitution Committee.

At Federation level Lynn worked as the co-ordinator for the programme area Human Rights and the Status of Women – a post which she thoroughly enjoyed as it offered the opportunity to work on programme at all levels of the organisation and with Soroptimists in many countries. During the Federation year 2002-2003 Lynn served as SIGBI Federation President. As International President from 2005–07, Lynn adopted a modernising agenda, determined to create a dynamic, focused organisation which would prove relevant and attractive to a wide membership. She was responsible for the initiation and development of SI's first Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board at the close of her presidency. As Chair of the Strategic Planning Group, Lynn threw herself into the task with characteristic energy and vision, inspiring her fellow members with her readiness to embrace new ideas and ways of thinking. As one group member put it:

".....we were - all looking forward with optimism for the future of SI, led by a brilliant and courageous woman."

During her term of office, Lynn travelled widely throughout the Soroptimist world, attending Federation conferences, visiting clubs and the international projects that she initiated in her December 10 Appeals in Bénin and Pakistan. She relished the opportunity to engage personally with members and they, in turn, responded warmly to her informal style, humour and enthusiasm for the Soroptimist cause.

Education was Lynn's passion throughout her life. In 1999 she was appointed Head Teacher of Darwen Vale High School in Lancashire where she proved to be an inspirational leader. Under her Headship, the school took on the engineering specialism and became a pilot school for the Building Schools for the Future programme. Robin Campbell, Chair of the Secondary Heads Group, commented this week: "She was so passionate about her work in ensuring the best opportunities not only for Darwen Vale, but for all the children of Blackburn and Darwen." One of the most touching tributes to her from a young pupil was posted on to a local website:

"i go darwen vale & i'm in year 9; i didn't really know her or speak to her; but i know she was a great headteacher and i will miss her because everythings gunna change; mrs dunning was an amazing person :) R.I.P (L)"

Lynn was married to Brian and had two grown up step-children and four stepgrandchildren. They have lived for many years on a small-holding where she was devoted to her numerous animals, especially her beloved cats and dogs. Lynn's final achievement in the last weeks of her life was to be awarded the title of Barnardo's Lancashire Woman of the Year for 2009 – a prestigious and richly deserved award.

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

Gala Overview

Human sex trafficking is a global epidemic that is a crime against humanity, and a violation of human rights. Considered a modern form of slavery, trafficking has been occurring for centuries, and is one of the fastest growing forms of organized crime in the world today. Human sex trafficking although most think only occurs in the industrialized world, is also prevalent within Canada. The women and children who fall prey to this horrific crime endure a level of violence that is unimaginable, catastrophic and some times even fatal; all the while the perpetrators operate with relative impunity. Fuelled by the demand for sex, enslaved and tortured domestic and internationally trafficked persons are used as disposable commodities for sexual gratification, power and control by "the Johns", and for financial gains by their traffickers.

Soroptimist's around the world are working to raise awareness, rescue, restore and advance the status of women, and ultimately stop human trafficking. On September 26th, 2009 at the Regional level, Soroptimist International of Western Canada in Vancouver and Edmonton hosted the first *STOP Trafficking Gala* in support of The Salvation Army's *The Truth Isn't Sexy* Campaign. The Salvation Army is embracing the issues of human trafficking, increasing public awareness, and is committed to providing social support to trafficked persons to restore their freedom, dignity, and self-respect. It is with this collaborative partnership that Soroptimist International of Western Canada shares in the goal to prevent, protect and support trafficked women and children with the up most care and diligence.

With guests; Master of Ceremonies Christy Clarke, Maj. S. van Duinen with the Salvation Army, SI of North and West Vancouver Soroptimist Janneke Lewis, and Keynote speaker Award Winning Journalist and Publisher Victor Malarek, Soroptimists and guests heard about the perils of trafficking, and the men who perpetuate the abuse. Also discussed at the Gala was a petition to decriminalize the selling of sex and criminalize the purchasing of sex. In essence, this petition demands we hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions. Please take the time and circulate and sign the petition.

Final numbers are still being calculated from ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and the silent auction however, so far the approximate total of funds raised is \$10,000. Thank you to all that participated. For further information on this event and the petition please contact Janneke@telus.net

Successful Events

SI of the Langleys members participated in two fun events this summer to raise funds for their programs.

The first event was "Arts Alive" on August 15, where Soroptimists once again served up their "world- famous" hot dogs to an enthusiastic crowd of art lovers. With the generous support of our sponsors, \$2100 was raised to benefit projects for women and girls in our community. The club had participated in this event since its inception in 1994.



The second "fun"draiser was held on September 7, 2009, at the business premises of local GM dealer Preston's Chevrolet Cadillac. Owner Peter Heppner and his team hosted their second annual "Movie Night" featuring the classic thriller "Jaws", which aired on a giant inflatable movie screen. Dozens of classic car enthusiasts converged at the location to check out each others' "rides", watch the movie, and enjoy burgers, hot dogs, and popcorn cooked to order by members of SI of the Langleys. This event netted \$930, and was great fun!



Club Projects

SI Central Alberta recently presented \$6000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association



Coming Events

SI North & West Vancouver is hosting their **9th Annual Treasure Chest of Hope** Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 7th at the Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver. The club has raised more than \$168,000 for local charities through the annual Treasure Chest of Hope. This year the funds raised will again benefit the North Shore Youth Safe House. Besides fine dining and dancing the evening includes silent and live auctions, a raffle and the sale of keys to the treasure chest. Tickets cost \$75 each. For more information and ticket purchase phone 604-985-2668 or email bonniemclaren@shaw.ca. Submitted by Doris Cowan, SI North & West Vancouver

SI Courtenay will be holding a PJ & Pearls event on February 10, 2010. For more information contact the club at sicourtenay@soroptimist.net

SI Banff are already planning their major fundraiser for this year, which will be held the 1st Tuesday in March. For more details please contact the club at sibanffntlpark@soroptimist.net

SI Central Alberta is holding it's PJ and Pearls on Friday Nov. 6th this year and are once again thrilled that Elvis will be joining them! Please contact President Robin Armitage at (403)347-0099 for more information.

SI Tri-Cities is once again hosting it's Women's Recognition Awards Luncheon at Westwood Plateau Golf and Country Club, which is being held on March 7, 2010. Please contact the club at sitricities@soroptimist.net for more details.

SI Winnipeg already has a packed events agenda: November 17th is tentatively booked for a Breaking Bread Potluck, partnering with Women for Women in Afghanistan. December 9th is their Christmas Celebration, Auction & Fundraiser at the Norwood Hotel and April 17, 2010 they will be hosting their Annual Awards Banquet at the Greenwood Inn. Tickets \$35 pp. For more information contact the club at siofwpwg@soroptimist.net

SI Edmonton are planning a Live Your Dream Day for March 8, 2010. For further details please contact the club at siedmonton@soroptimist.net

SI Abbotsford-Mission will be hosting a 'Best for Women' Dinner & Auction on November 21st. Proceeds to 'The Warm Zone' and the Stop Human Trafficking Initiative. They are also planning their Awards Luncheon for April 17, 2010.

Finally, mark you calendars for Soroptimist Western Canada Region Conference April 29 – May 2, 2010 – Banff, Alberta and Soroptimist International of the Americas Convention July 7 – 10, 2010 San Francisco.

Plan to Attend!
Soroptimist International of White Rock
Presents their

Women in Film

Festival Fundraiser
Gently Used Book Sale

Saturday November 14th 2009

9.30a.m. to 3.30p.m.

Doors open 9.00a.m

Location: First United Church
(Centre and Buena Vista)

Ticket prices

Full day \$25.00 (includes lunch)

Half day \$12.00

Contact Liz at 604-538-3505

**Fundraiser for Soroptimist
programs locally and internationally**

Live Your Dream Art Contest

**Help get the word out to schools in your
area about this year's
Live Your Dream Art Contest**

This is a contest designed for clubs to engage with schools in their communities. Boys and girl students ages 4 - 18 are invited to draw a present-day woman that they admire. If chosen as a finalist, their artwork will be displayed on The Soroptimist Live Your Dream campaign website at LiveYourDreamCampaign.org. They will also be eligible to win a cash prize for themselves and their schools!

**Let's get this out to all our schools and in
the media!**

SILENT OBSERVATIONS

by

Susan "Sam" Buchenau – Silent Observer, 2009 SI Board Meeting

Asking a Soroptimist to be a silent observer is a bit like expecting a four-year old to sit still in church – it can be done, but you know from the outset that it's not going to be easy. Why, then, would any Soroptimist member repeatedly ask to attend the Soroptimist International Board Meeting, knowing that she is attending at her own expense, using her valuable and limited vacation time, and will be attending as a silent observer? In my case it is because as a committed and involved Soroptimist, the experience of forming friendships with fellow Soroptimists from every corner of the earth, and participating, even silently, in the process of education, decision making, and occasional change, is just too delectable to miss. And, in truth, while a silent observer does remain silent during the actual business meeting, there are many opportunities for input and even occasionally to influence the outcome over the several days of the meeting.

Attending the SI Board Meeting is unlike attending any other Soroptimist meeting I have ever attended. As a member of Soroptimist International of the Americas, if you didn't know you were at a Soroptimist meeting, you wouldn't know you are at a Soroptimist meeting. The room arrangement is different, the decision making process is different, even the faces are different – this is a whole new cast of characters. The SI President, her procedural consultant, the SI Treasurer, and the SI Executive Officer all sit at a sort of head table – on a raised platform. Three (3) voting members from each of the four (4) Federations sit at tables arranged in a horseshoe around the head table. Behind each of the four Federation voting delegates (usually the federation president, president-elect and immediate past president) is a table with that Federation's executive officer (executive director) and one or two consultants – usually their vice presidents or other up and coming leaders on the federation board. Behind them sit the various SI committee members and liaisons whose reports and recommendations form a large part of the business to be discussed.

The proceedings are all held in English (the official language of SI), which can pose a challenge for SIA as well as SI Europe since English is not the first language of any of their countries. Nonetheless, their command of English and its subtleties is beyond admirable. In fact, the ability of all of the voting delegations to express and comprehend complex and highly nuanced ideas is vital to the process.

Prior to the meeting, participants (including silent observers) were provided with Board papers including the agenda, extensive reports and recommendations, presentations from vendors and service providers, and a host of supporting documentation, which when printed two-sided filled a 2 inch notebook. The papers must be read in order to follow the meeting. The voting delegations have not only read the materials, they have discussed them among themselves, their Federation Boards, and sometimes with other delegations. The discussions are by turns lightning fast and excruciatingly slow – large decisions can be made quickly if there is general consensus, other times the placement of a comma can bog down the entire proceedings. Even though the officers (SI President, Immediate Past President, President Elect and Treasurer) are part of the official board of directors, they do not vote. Only the 12 voting delegates (3 from each federation) have the power to vote. It takes a 2/3 majority (eight votes) to pass any motion. Motions regarding extension funding, per capita dues or amendments to the SI Constitution require the affirmative vote of 2 members of each federation. This means the power of persuasion can be imperative!

The meetings are long, and the stakes are high. From time to time tempers flare. Sometimes consensus is impossible and compromise cannot be found, and everyone has to walk away from the table disappointed. And then we break for coffee or for lunch or dinner and sit with other Soroptimists, and talk about the projects in our home clubs, in our Regions or Unions, and in our Federation. We talk about the things that unite us. We share ideas and we build friendships. Away from the meeting room is when the silent observer stops being silent. During pre-Board delegation meetings, SIA's silent observers participate in discussion of the issues. Silent observers also take part with others in any small-group exercises or discussion groups.

Although there is lots of work, there is also opportunity to play together. Early morning walks are a great opportunity to get your blood and your ideas flowing. There are also impromptu gatherings after dinner for a glass of wine and good discussion. In addition, this year our Danish host Soroptimists arranged for us to have a home hospitality evening which allowed meeting participants to enjoy dinner in the home of nearby Soroptimists, which is an extraordinary opportunity to meet other meeting participants from around the world, and to see how our fellow Soroptimists live. I was lucky enough to go to the home of a member who lived less than 10 minutes away from our conference center in Hillerød. Her co-hosts were 3 fellow club members, and the other meeting participants included another Danish member, a member from Vienna, Austria, and one from Guernsey, in the United Kingdom. In the leisurely atmosphere of Vibeca's home we shared stories about ourselves and our home clubs, and quickly forged friendships that will last far beyond the few hours that we shared together.

The Change of Insignia is another memorable event observed in odd-numbered years. The setting of the Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerød made this transfer of SI Presidency from Margaret Lobo to Hanne Jensbro particularly impressive.

I freely admit that I am a bit of a procedural wonk, and a Soroptimist junkie. Being a silent observer at an International Board meeting might not be for everyone. But for me, the cumulative knowledge that I have gained and the friendships I have made are what make the experience so memorable and one that I hope I am able to repeat again and again.

Soroptimist International - Programme Update

Project Sierra: A Family and a Future

The 2007-2011 SI Quadrennial Project starts its third year with more than US\$500,000 raised to support the project thus far. SIA clubs and members have donated more than US \$250,000 to date. New materials have been produced to help clubs promote and support the project. A [new brochure](#) and [DVD](#) have been produced to include information from the first two years of the project, including footage of the Project Sierra study tour. Check the [Project Sierra website](#) regularly for updates and information. Donations should be sent to SIA HQ, earmarked "Project Sierra."

SI President's Appeal 2009

2009-2011 SI President Hanne Jensbo has chosen human trafficking as the topic of the December 10, 2009 President's Appeal. *Hopes and Dreams for Everyone* is a partnership with the International Organization for Migration and The Child Rights Information Center in Moldova to protect vulnerable Moldovan girls with life-skills education and sustainable living conditions. The project focuses on girls ages 13 to 18, living or preparing to leave for boarding schools in the northern part of the country. The project is the continuation of a project of the SI Union of Norway and the SI clubs in Moldova which began in 2005. Donations can be sent to SIA HQ earmarked for the 2009 President's Appeal. When brochures are available, it will be announced in the Soroptimist Summary. Check the [Soroptimist International](#) web site for additional information.

Member to Member

Clare Adams (SI Tri-Cities)
Play Paradise Indoor Playground
www.playparadise.ca

Clare took over ownership of this indoor playground in Port Coquitlam from September 1st and invites any Soroptimists with young children to come and check it out. Aimed at 1-6 yr olds, it provides a quieter refuge for parents than most indoor playgrounds as well as healthy eating options in the Eco Café, free wireless internet, babysitting services and a full schedule of weekly, monthly and special events and activities. Drop in for a play or book your next birthday party or special event with us.

Play Paradise is proud to have recently donated over \$400 to the Gaby Davis Foundation, helping families affected by childhood cancer from their Oct 4th fundraiser and funds from recyclables. For more information on this great local charity, visit www.gabydavisfoundation.com

Member to Member is a section in each edition of Action Line that is reserved for Soroptimists to share information about their business with other Soroptimists. Soroptimist is all about supporting women and so let's support each other too!

The next edition of Action Line is due out in early January, but with Christmas getting in the way mid-December, please send your submissions for beginning of December to allow time for editing!

THANK YOU!

Soroptimist Resources!

Soroptimist International
www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International of the Americas
www.soroptimist.org

Western Canada Region
www.wcsoroptimist.org

Soroptimist Foundation of Canada
www.soroptimistfoundation.ca