

# SIGBI Programme Director's Blog January 2017



Happy New Year to everyone- I wonder what 2017 has in store for us?

From a Programme point of view I am sure it will bring many new challenges and also opportunities.

In December we selected the delegates for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to be held in New York in March – it was difficult this year as we had more applicants than places.

The selection process involves trying to ensure an even distribution of candidates from across the Federation as there are meetings (caucuses) that are restricted to delegates from a specific area such as the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe etc. In order to ensure we have a voice in each of these we (Margaret Clark, APD FOR Advocacy, and myself) try to select our applicants

accordingly. For those who have been successful I hope you will all enjoy the experience and be prepared to promote Soroptimist Values at every opportunity, for those who have not succeeded this time please don't give up – you can still make your voices heard.

For many clubs the New Year brings a time of reflection, looking back on what has worked, what hasn't, how improvements can be made, what we want to achieve and how we can promote our organisation. I suppose it could be considered the equivalent of Soroptimist New Year's Resolutions!

On a personal level there are many things I want to achieve this year regarding Programme Action.

I would love to see all clubs involved in Advocacy, increase the presence of Soroptimists at relevant meetings and see more projects supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically those that Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to reach their full potential.

Many years ago when I was the Regional PA representative I helped produce a workbook for UKPAC on Programme Action and my opening line was "Programme Action is not a spectator sport".

How true that is – if you are not involved in Programme Action you have to consider why you are a Soroptimist as it is our *raison d'être*.

No matter what your age, ability, work load there is something that you can do. Projects involving all members are more likely to succeed so as we move forward into a new year I wish you all Health, Happiness, Success and better Teamwork.

Yours in friendship

Barbara Dixon  
Programme Director

