

May 2016

The month of April promised to be busy with meetings, virtual and Face to Face , and it has lived up to its promise.

The FMB met on the first week-end and much progress was made on Vision 2021 and Membership Month which is now underway. Programme is one of the ways in which we can engage new members.

We are a grass roots organisation that women may want to join so that they can help others. Our longer standing members have a wealth of experience to offer these new members, in the vernacular; they have been there, done that and got the “T” shirt.

One of the beauties of our organisation is its diversity of age, backgrounds and experience and team work is vital not just in our projects, but in our clubs. Many Presidents will be new in post and it is up to every member to support them as best they can so that our projects are successful and raise our profile, locally, nationally and internationally.



A Skype meeting with the SI Advocacy team resulted in progress being made towards better communication with our representatives at the UN in the various countries and it was humbling to know just how much work these ladies do on our

behalf to ensure that the voice of Soroptimist International is heard at the highest levels. It is our project work that gives them the data for their negotiations so we have to ensure they have the tools to do their jobs.

I know that our [APD for Advocacy](#), Margaret Clarke is working very hard in her role ensuring that the name of Soroptimism is well-known, she has attended several important group meetings in the last month, following through from contacts made at CSW.



I attended a post CSW meeting in London on 27th April where it was discussed how we can better influence government to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Remember that unlike the Millennium Development Goals these are no longer concerned with Developing Nations, but

apply to every country in the world and as Soroptimists we should be looking at ways in which we can influence the way in which our respective Governments react.

The monthly skype meeting of the APD's saw us making progress on the programme for the Malta Conference and we will soon be looking at the best practice awards for the year, so please make sure your project work is on the database.

On a sad note Pam Allinson, our APD for Education and our representative on the International President's appeal suffered a severe stroke in April and has only just been deemed well enough to be transferred to Llandough stroke unit. I am sure everyone wishes her well and hopes for a full recovery for her.

Spring is in the air if you ignore the sleet and snow in the UK , a time of renewal, so I hope you are all invigorated to move ahead with your projects and I look forward to reading about them in our publications and , of course, on the database.

Barbara Dixon
Federation Programme Director