

SIGBI President's March 2019 Blog



Judi Chaddock, Director Without Portfolio, reports

As you know, I am a Newbie on Federation Management Board since I took up the post of Director Without Portfolio in October at the Liverpool Conference. It was very different sitting on the Board as opposed to being a Federation Consultative Councillor! I do hope I can make a positive contribution to SIGBI's change to charitable status.

One thing I would like to encourage is to ask all members to look outwards from their own clubs and regions and to try to take part in outside events in order to promote our wonderful work and organisation.



The Commission on the Status of Women takes place at the UN in New York every March to celebrate achievements and monitor gaps and challenges in the advancement of women's and girls' rights

worldwide. This year it runs from 11 March to 22 March 2019.

There are numerous seminars, high level panels with officials from international governmental organisations and meetings in addition to the formal submission of reports from each country and discussion on the Outcome Document with negotiated agreed conclusions. There is also an active NGO forum with hundreds of events taking place at venues throughout the city over the two weeks. It is the largest gathering of international NGOs hosted by the UN.

Each year there is a different priority and review theme. This year the Priority theme is on Social Protection, access to public and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. These are critical for gender equality. Urgent action across the themes is needed to protect and promote women's empowerment in the context of significant change and challenge to human rights and equality frameworks across the globe. The Review Theme is Women's Empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

I have attended CSW in New York for many years and have met some amazing women from across the globe as well as many dedicated government officials and diplomats, all anxious to progress women's rights. SI is held in very high regard by the UN and other international organisations, and the Soroptimist delegation showcases the best examples of Programme work done throughout SI. If you haven't attended CSW before, I urge you to attend next year in 2020. It is an unforgettable experience and you will meet many influential people you would never meet in the normal course of events.



The other overseas event taking place this year is the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 21 July 2019. This is another opportunity to visit a different part of the world, make new friends, and also promote the Programme Work done by SIGBI as well as gain first hand knowledge of the work done by Clubs in the other Federations. SI have organised a Club Talent Show as part of their Friendship Evening. Two clubs from each Federation are being invited to take part. If you are interested, further details can be

obtained from hq@sigbi.org. The closing date for applications for the Talent Show is 31 March 2019. Details about the SI Convention is on the website – siconventionkl2019.org

Members of the FMB will be attending both events. It is too late to register for CSW this year but why don't you consider joining the 98 other members from SIGBI going to the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur? The closing date to register is 10 July 2019. See you there!

In Friendship

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