

Ann Garvie - SI Glasgow City

Ann Garvie's contribution to Soroptimism has been unrelenting and with challenges at local, national and international levels since joining Soroptimist International at the tender age of 23!

Ann was born in Bearsden, Glasgow, attending Athol Preparatory and Westbourne School for Girls, followed by graduation from Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Strathclyde Business School.

She joined Greater Glasgow Health Board as a Facilities and Quality Assurance Manager and ended as Director of Registration and Inspection of Private Hospitals, Clinics and Nursing Homes. Ann then became Director and General Manager of Carrick Care Homes comprising 15 homes, achieving the 2004 UK Care Home Company of the year. Ann continues as a Director of her family's house building company established in 1888, which specialises in eco-friendly homes.

Ann has proven to be a natural leader within Soroptimism as Club, Region, Federation and International President.

In the 1990s, Ann was Federation Limbs for Life Quadrennial Project Liaison. She was passionate about the cessation of the use of landmines which cause so much human suffering globally to innocent victims. The project raised awareness while advocating on behalf of the victims and achieved the action of a United Nations resolution in support of the cessation of this form of warfare.

In 2012 Ann was elected by her Federation to lead Soroptimist International as President 2013-2015. The role was challenging but ratified her belief that the greatest asset is the diversity of the membership. Her International President's Appeal See Solar, Cook Solar was led by the members submitting projects for funding, almost without exception for the education and empowerment of women and girls in safe havens using solar energy to light teaching and dwelling places, to cook safely, and to provide power for technology, sewing machines and the like.

Speaking on behalf of Soroptimist International at the United Nations, New York, Paris, Vienna, Rome and Geneva Ann was inspirational, thought provoking and a change facilitator. Planning and delivering with a diverse and determined team the 2015 International Convention in Istanbul proved to be challenging, not least due to the prevailing geo-political issues. However, success was achieved with a diverse programme, including for the first time presentations by young women from the northern and southern hemispheres as their first experience of speaking in public.

As leader of Soroptimist International it was obvious to her that the International Board needed to reflect on and radically change the Board. Ann was the change maker and facilitator, acting as the catalyst for a working Board suitable for the 21st century.

In her community Ann has undertaken and undertakes:

- on behalf of Scottish Enterprise, mentoring of young entrepreneurs
- leading the Women of Scotland Lunch Committee running a "posh" annual fundraising lunch for 500 women for a named charity each year.
- service on the Scottish Women's Prison Reform Group.
- Member Marie Curie Fund Raising Group for the new Glasgow Hospice.
- Past Trustee of Abbeyfield UK.
- Trustee of White Ribbon Scotland.
- Chairman Number 63 (Sorop1mist) Limited.

Ann will not cease to campaign for the achievement of gender equality globally and is humbled and privileged to be a Soroptimist.

