

## Charter Ceremony for Merger of two Clubs

2.2 The ceremony should include the following:

- i) A welcome by the President of the new Club including a mention of all VIPs.
- ii) Reading of the Vision and Mission of Soroptimist International
- iii) The presentation of the Charter by the Chartering Officer, on behalf of the Federation, to the President of the new Club.

2.3 The Chartering Officer may make a short speech and will then use the following words:

“In the name of the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, I welcome the new Club of SI ..... to the fellowship of Soroptimist International. I charge you as members of the new club to:

maintain high ethical standards  
work for human rights and the status of women  
encourage friendship between Soroptimists of all countries  
give service to the community and  
promote international understanding and friendship.

Madam President, I give you the Charter of Soroptimist International of ..... and I wish you all joy in your continuing membership of our great organisation”.

2.4 The Charter is then signed by the founder Club President and the Federation Chartering Officer. The founder members of the Club are then inducted, using the following words, and receive their badges and a ‘New Member’s Pack’.

"It is with pleasure that I welcome you to membership of Soroptimist International of ..... where as members you will continue to be joined with the women worldwide who are bound together in service and friendship. I now offer you the right hand of fellowship signifying your entry into this new Club and linking you with Soroptimists everywhere. We hope that you will continue to find friendship and a sense of achievement in your membership of the new Club."

Each new member shakes hands with the Chartering Officer, who then says:

“As you know, as Soroptimists, your duties are to maintain high ethical standards, work for human rights and the status of women, encourage friendship between Soroptimists of all countries, give service to the community and promote international understanding and friendship.

Sister Soroptimists, I commend to you the members of our newest Club and charge you not to fail in your duties towards them."

A roll call is then taken with the assembled Club members standing in turn to introduce themselves by name and category.

- 2.5 The Club President may then make an inaugural speech. Greetings received from those unable to attend the event should be read out. Soroptimists attending the event may wish to present greetings/gifts from their Clubs, Region, National Association or Network.
  
- 2.6 There should be a vote of thanks on behalf of the new Club by one of its members to include: VIPs, Chartering Officer, Extension and Membership Officer involved with the formation of the Club, sponsoring ('Mother') Club, Region, National Association or Network, other Soroptimists attending and the function/catering staff. This should be brief and simply thank any of the above who have helped with the formation of the club and or with the charter ceremony. It is usual to start by naming the most important Soroptimist present. (The order of precedence for this, as for all other things, is: International, Federation, Region or National Association or Network and then club.)