MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION PROGRAMME ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING
ROALD DAHL SUITE – ST DAVID’S HOTEL AND SPA, CARDIFF
THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT: Barbara Dixon Federation Programme Director
Ann Hodgson Federation President
Susan Biggs Federation President Elect
Zarreen Babu Federation Friendship Link Coordinator
Margaret Clark Federation APD Advocacy
Rayner Rees Federation APD Economic Empowerment
Naina Shah Federation APD Environmental Sustainability
Rita Beaumont Federation APD Food Security and Health
Jan Hemlin Federation APD Education
Nisha Ghosh Federation APD Violence and Conflict Resolution
Najma Hasin FPAC Bangladesh
Andrea Farmer FPAC Barbados
Martha Pufong FPAC Cameroon
Glenys Hunt FPAC England
Gloria Payne Banfield FPAC Grenada
Nisha Ghosh FPAC India
Margaret Chimpukusso FPAC Malawi
Dot Hunter FPAC Malta
Dora Ramsamy FPAC Mauritius
Nneka Chris-Asoluka FPAC Nigeria (Proxy)
Maureen Maguire FPAC Northern Ireland (Proxy)
Mary Hession FPAC Republic of Ireland
Audrey Masson FPAC Scotland (Proxy)
Cecile Hodoul FPAC Seychelles
Doreen Deigh FPAC Sierra Leone
Gail Charalambous FPAC South Africa
Ikarmola La Borde FPAC St Vincent and the Grenadines
Bebe Ajodha FPAC Trinidad and Tobago
Betty Dean FPAC Turks and Caicos
Kay Richmond FPAC UK and Wales

IN ATTENDANCE: Judith Lewis Director of Finance
Gina Coad Federation Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Gambia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe

FPAC Minutes 2016 –November 2016
1. WELCOME
Barbara Dixon, Federation Programme Director, welcomed all attendees to the FPAC meeting. Helen Murdoch, Conference Chairman, welcomed all to the 83rd Federation Conference at Cardiff and gave some important notices about various events over the next few days.

2. ROLL CALL
A Roll Call was taken of those present.

3. MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION PROGRAMME ACTION MEETING, 10 November 2016 (Circulated)
There were no amendments to the 2016 FPAC Minutes and they were signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising.

5. IMMEDIATE PAST SI DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY, PAT BLACK
Pat Black gave a presentation on “From Local to Global: The UN and our Programme Focus Report Forms”. This gave an insight into why completing Programme Focus Report Forms is so important, and how they are used at the United Nations.

All the Member States of the UN have committed to the focus of the Sustainable Development Goals. These present 17 challenging targets for every one to achieve, with indicators for each one which will demonstrate if the targets are being met.

Soroptimist International uses the information about projects at grass roots level to illustrate how SI is contributing to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Pat urged all the Federation PAC Chairs present to go back to their countries and raise awareness in their communities about the SDGs and what the country’s government has pledged to do to achieve them, monitor what the government is doing and lobby them to do more, as well as be agents of change.

Information from the Programme Focus Report Forms is collated by the SI UN Reps and used in speeches made at the UN. SI has 14 UN Representatives in 6 major UN Centres. The role of these Reps is to attend sessions which relate to work being done by Soroptimists around the world and make sure that the work discussed will help to improve the lives of women and girls. The Programme Focus Report Forms make the work of the UN Reps more effective by giving them the information they need, so it is vital that these are completed by Clubs.

See Pat Black’s full Presentation

6. SIGBI FRIENDSHIP LINK COORDINATOR, ZARREEN BABU
Zarreen’s presentation was entitled “Across the Miles: Friendship Links and how to get the best out of them.”

Friendship Links are vital to all Clubs because they increase the scope of projects that a Club is able to do, plus they foster friendships and are more fun than doing a project alone. Friendships can be made with Clubs in any of the other three Federations, or with a Club in your own Federation, SIGBI – even within your own country.
Friendship Links take part in joint projects, and may arrange visits to each other’s area. It’s a way of learning about other cultures and supporting other Soroptimists. This support can be financial – if you want to financially support another Club’s project, then one way to do this (for a non-UK Club) would be to pay their capitation fees to SIGBI and thereby free up the equivalent amount for the Club to use on their project.

It is not always easy to maintain links with a Friendship Link Club – communication may be difficult and the other Club may not respond. You need to recognize when a Friendship Link is not working, and disband it to make way for other, more rewarding Links.

There are many examples of joint projects in SIGBI, and Zarreen mentioned just a few, all of which demonstrated how much can be achieved by Clubs working together. She also emphasized the fun side of doing joint projects, especially when the two Clubs come together in visits.

Zarreen suggested that Clubs have a specific Friendship Link email address, so that anyone can access it, and the email does not change as Friendship Link Coordinators change. This will make it easier to keep in touch. She advised that Clubs should not have too many Friendship Links as this would be hard to manage and it is better to have a few with whom to correspond frequently.

See Zarreen Babu’s full presentation

7. VIDEO: WE THE PEOPLE
At this point a video was shown, which is available on You Tube, which demonstrated how the 17 Sustainable Development Goals applies to everyone, not just to governments.

View the Video

8. SDGs: WHERE DO YOUR PROJECTS FIT? – RAYNER REES, APD ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
Soroptimist International has always focused on Advocacy and Lobbying:

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions, and can include signing petitions, media campaigns, public speaking and commissioning/publishing research.

Lobbying (often by lobby groups) is a form of advocacy where a direct approach is made to legislators on an issue which plays a significant role in modern politics. Social Media can play a key role in lobbying.

Our work now needs to be related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and work towards achieving these by 2030. SDGs 5 and 10 are very similar – both are to do with reducing inequalities and are the basis of most of the work undertaken by Soroptimist International. Our Food Security and Healthcare programme area addresses SDG 2 (No Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), and Education supports SDG 4 (High Quality Education).

Environmental Sustainability addresses a number of SDGs – SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Our Emergency Relief Fund also addresses Disaster Relief.
Economic Empowerment addresses SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Violence and Conflict Resolution addresses SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and we also promote Partnership working, which addresses SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Therefore our work addresses almost all of the SDGs. Advocacy is vital and so is completing the Programme Focus Report Forms, in order to demonstrate the work that Soroptimists are doing towards achieving the SDGs.

See Rayner Rees’ full presentation

MARGARET HYDE: PROGRAMME ACTION AND PUBLICITY

Margaret talked about how to achieve more publicity for the work of the Organisation. It can take many attempts at getting media interested, so do not give up. The news of the moment is likely to cause an article to be suppressed. One way of getting noticed is to comment on issues that are currently of concern – maybe by joining a radio or TV phone-in session. There will be limited time, so keep it succinct – make sure you mention that you are a Soroptimist, but there will not be time to explain in depth what a Soroptimist is.

Have your “Elevator Pitch” ready, so that you can explain in less than two minutes who Soroptimists are and what we do, and always think of taking good pictures of any projects that you do. Avoid photographs of groups of women standing in a line, but take good action shots that demonstrate the project.

When you’re having your initial meetings about any new project, always plan your publicity right from the start. Think about how you will get noticed for the project.

See Margaret Hyde’s full presentation

FORMATTED GROUP SESSION

Delegates worked in groups led by either the APD allocated to their cluster or with APD for Advocacy Margaret Clark or UKPAC chairman Kay Richmond.

The purpose of this session was to identify issues faced by countries outside the UK and determine how the Programme team could assist with them.

The session also asked delegates to consider the proposed new Annual report form - comments and analysis of this would be made available after conference.

JOHANNA RAFFAN: PROJECT PLANNING

Johanna presented with two other Members of SI Thames Valley on their Kori Project. They described how the project started, with a donation of land that could then be worked upon by the women in the area. SI Thames Valley have provided seeds, tools and even livestock that can provide this area with sustainable income for the future. The women were advised to use one third of their produce for their own needs, one third to sell and one third to use for planting the following year.

The women have now diversified into producing soap for sale, which provides an additional income, and a library has been built which has attracted attention across Sierra Leone. Solar panels have been
installed on the library roof to provide a sustainable light source. This addresses the educational needs of the community, as the children and adults now have somewhere to study.

This is a project that has addressed all the needs of the community.

See Johanna Raffan’s full presentation

12. FORUM CONSULTATION

Delegates were asked to comment on the following questions:-
- How useful do you find the FPAC meeting
- Should/could the meeting be held electronically
- How long should the meeting last
- How can the meeting be made interactive
- Should the day include speakers from outside SIGBI
- Should the day include aspects of the use of technology
- Any other comments or suggestions.

The results of this consultation would be made available to the FMB for the January meeting.

13. PROGRAMME TEAM: INTERACTIVE SESSION: QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

One issue was raised:

The Caribbean situation re recent hurricane damage and financial implications. This was an issue all were asked to advocate on.

Programme Director, Barbara Dixon, and Past International Director for Advocacy, Pat Black, were to take the matter forward to Marriet Verhof Cohen to raise at COP23.

14. FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

A feedback questionnaire was provided for all delegates – 30 replies were collected and the analysis of responses will be made available to the FMB at the January meeting

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25 October 2018 at ACC, Liverpool, UK.