MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION PROGRAMME ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING
THE HARDY SUITE, HERMITAGE HOTEL, BOURNEMOUTH
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: Kay Richmond Federation Programme Director
Sue Williams Federation President
Isobel Smith Federation President Elect
Margaret Clark Federation APD Advocacy
Carol Infanti Federation APD Economic Empowerment
Naina Shah Federation APD Environmental Sustainability
Rita Beaumont Federation APD Food Security and Health
Nisha Ghosh Federation APD Violence and Conflict Resolution
Bhaswati Biswas Federation Friendship Link Coordinator
Zakia Sultana Shahid FPAC Bangladesh
Lisa Toppin-Corbin FPAC Barbados
Martha Pufong FPAC Cameroon
Glenys Hunt FPAC England
Naina Shah FPAC India
Linda Borg Vassallo FPAC Malta
Rita Allen FPAC Northern Ireland
Irene Walker FPAC Republic of Ireland
Janice Wilson FPAC Scotland (Proxy)
Natalie Cole FPAC Sierra Leone
Laurel Becker FPAC South Africa (Proxy)
Miriam Roache FPAC St Vincent and the Grenadines (Proxy)
Bebe Ajodha FPAC Trinidad and Tobago
Rachel Marshall Taylor FPAC Turks and Caicos
Liz Dominey FPAC UK
Bobbie Sheldrake FPAC Wales

IN ATTENDANCE: Ruth Healey Director of Finance
Yvonne Freeman Incoming APD Food Security and Healthcare (TBC)
Sally Higgins Membership and Website Officer

APOLOGIES: Yvonne Gibbon APD Education
Gina Coad Executive Officer

1. WELCOME
Kay Richmond, Federation Programme Director, welcomed attendees to the FPAC meeting.
2. **ROLL CALL**
   A Roll Call was taken of those present.

3. **MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION PROGRAMME ACTION MEETING, 26 November 2018 (Circulated)**
   There were no amendments to the 2018 FPAC Minutes and they were signed as a true record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**
   There were no matters arising.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF APD/FLC REPORTS**
   All reports had been circulated and were accepted.

5. **INTRODUCTION TO CONFERENCE**
   Federation President, Sue Williams, welcomed all delegates present to Bournemouth, and said that she hoped they would be inspired by the Conference over the next three days.

6. **PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE**
   Sally Higgins, SIGBI Membership and Website Officer, gave a live demonstration of the updates to the SIGBI Programme Database, which now aligns reports to the 5Ps and the 17 SDGs. This will help reporting to the United Nations in future, and aid the retention of SIGBI’s Special Consultative Status at ECOSOC.

   There were a few other minor amendments, including the ability to report on behalf of a Region/National Association, and state that the number of beneficiaries is unknown.

   Questions from the floor included a request that the search facility is improved so that the results of the previous search are not lost when a project is viewed, and this is currently being investigated.

7. **CLUSTER GROUPS**
   The APDs and their Cluster Groups spent an hour, together with the Silent Observers who were welcome to join them, discussing the database, Soroptimist News and any issues raised in their FPAC reports.

   Overall, the database changes were welcomed. Delegates were able to try it out for themselves. Delegates noted that there are definitions for partnerships, the 3Es and 3As in order to improve consistency of reporting within the database.

   The digital magazine met with a range of views, from like to wish we still had the hard copy. However, people accepted that, given, our financial constraints, this move was inevitable.

   There were no issues regarding the reports submitted.

8. **GENDER BALANCE – HOW CAN WE INFLUENCE GENDER STEREOTYPING?**
   Liz Dominey, UKPAC Chairman, introduced this session by showing a video called “Inspiring the Future: Redraw the Balance”. It shows how children as young as 5 already have fixed ideas about which professions are done by men and which by women.

   [Watch the Video]
This was followed by presentations from three Clubs who have conducted projects to educate girls on the careers available to them that are traditional male-dominated. The three presentations are available in PDF format, with their speaker notes, for your information:

SI Weston Super Mare explained the reasons why they started their Skirting Science project 11 years ago, That this has evolved to Sparking Science, aimed at primary school girls, as it was felt that 9-14 years was too late to introduce this subject:

See SI Weston Super Mare’s presentation with speaker notes

SI Pune Metro East started their One Billion Rise project in 2012, and this year have moved onto their Train the Trainer project, in which a member who is a counsellor, trained other Club Members on topics such as violence against women, gender stereotyping and how to address these, so that they could also go out and educate girls on these subjects.

See SI Pune Metro East’s presentation with speaker notes

SI Esperance’s “Girls in Aviation” project was inspired by a member who had wanted to become a pilot, but ended up being an attorney because the pilot option was not available to girls at that time. The project involved selecting a group of girls, who had to apply to be chosen, to attend a day’s Careers in Aviation course, at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. This explained what subjects they should study in order to qualify for the training and gave the girls a tour of the hangar and training aircraft.

See SI Esperance’s presentation with speaker notes

9. SI ADVOCACY – HLPF AND COUNTRY REVIEWS
Bev Bucur, SI Director of Advocacy, spoke about the big issues discussed at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the United Nations General Assembly. The HLPF discusses the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and concentrates on a few at each meeting, and the General Assembly discusses matters of international concern, such as climate change. Bev continued to outline the specific discussions of the two meetings that took place in 2019.

See Bev Bucur’s presentation with speaker notes

10. INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S APPEAL 2019-2021 – THE ROAD TO EQUALITY
Sharon Fisher, incoming SI President, presented her International President’s Appeal, which was first unveiled at the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur in July 2019. The Road to Equality will make use of seminars, webinars, networking, partnerships, our networks of neighbours, friends and family and our lived experiences to turn up the volume on the Rights of Women and Girls. No one should be left behind.

See Sharon Fisher’s presentation with speaker notes

11. UN ANNIVERSARIES IN 2020 – WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US
Each Assistant Programme Director (APD) was given four minutes to present on the significant UN Anniversaries that would be taking place over the next 12 months. As Yvonne Gibbons was unable to attend the meeting, Kay Richmond gave her presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals.
Rita Beaumont, APD Food Security and Healthcare, spoke about the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and how Soroptimists can get involved in the celebrations. Rita did not show any slides, but her full script is available to read: Rita Beaumont’s script on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Carol Infanti, APD Economic Empowerment, concentrated on the 75th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), explaining why it was set up and its main aims and objectives. Carol also gave some insights into what ECOSOC means to Soroptimist International: Carol Infanti’s presentation with speaker notes.

Nisha Ghosh, APD Violence and Conflict Resolution, gave an update on the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, which will be 25 years old next year, and Security Council Resolution 1325, which will be 20 years old. She finished by stating that in 2020 UN Women will be holding a Global Forum for Gender Equality in Mexico and France. It will be an event both of celebration of progress and a challenge to governments to accelerate what remains to be done: See Nish Ghosh’s presentation with speaker notes.

Margaret Clark, APD Advocacy, presented on 20 years since UNIFEM was launched, and how UNIFEM became UNWomen in 2010: See Margaret Clark’s presentation with speaker notes.

Naina Shah, APD Environmental Sustainability, talked about the 10th anniversary of the Copenhagen Compact on Climate Change. Climate Change is very topical at the moment, and next year the UN’s 26th climate change conference will be held in Glasgow, at which 30,000 delegates from around the world will attend: See Naina Shah’s presentation with speaker notes.

Kay Richmond, Director of Programme, gave the presentation prepared by Yvonne Gibbon, APD Education, on the 5 years since the Sustainable Development Goals were launched. Two key reports have been produced (links are in the presentation) which demonstrate that progress is being made in some critical areas, but that some monumental challenges still remain. The most urgent area for action is climate change: See Yvonne Gibbons’ presentation with speaker notes.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

13. SUMMARY AND CLOSE
Kay Richmond, Director of Programme, thanked everyone for their time in attending and hoped that the session had been useful.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 October 2020 in Belfast, UK.