Easy stages guide to Linked Membership

Introduction

1. Soroptimists main function is to improve the lives of women and girls.
2. Soroptimist Clubs should endeavour to accommodate all types of membership.
3. The Organisation needs to understand and acknowledge individuals needs and approach to membership.

Why Linked Membership?

1. To allow an existing member who moves to or lives in an area where there is no club to retain membership.
2. To accommodate a member who wants to stay linked to her club when she has moved to another area, even if there is a club there.
3. To allow an existing member who is unable to attend club meetings for personal reasons to retain membership.
4. To encourage an eligible perspective member who lives in an area where there is no club to join

Why not Associate Membership?

Associate Members

1. Believe in the vision and mission of Soroptimism, want involvement but cannot commit to a club
2. Have a remote digital experience of membership through technology
3. Experience limited Programme Action
4. No involvement at Club, Region, National Association or Network level
Benefits of Linked Membership

1. Retain existing members and increase membership.
2. Raise awareness of Soroptimism in new areas.
3. Involve members in club meetings through tele conference, video conference, or a webinar.
4. Availability of a pool of expertise and skills for the club.

Tips for Success

1. Allow active participation in the business of the club through Tele conference.
2. Motivate and value linked members.
3. Ensure that being a linked member demonstrates opportunities for development.
4. Create opportunities for linked members to actively use their skills in technology e.g. set up a website and keep updated.
5. Encourage members to keep up to date by using National/ Regional/Federation website and Facebook.
6. Encourage active participation in Programme Action through advertising, social media and lobbying campaigns.
7. Have frequent and regular communication to involve and engage with members.
8. Make sure that each linked member has a Mentor / Buddy who will support and keep in regular contact with them.
9. Invite linked members to participate in and help organise social events.

Membership Fees

All Linked Members will pay annual subscription fees to the club, whilst it is impossible to specify a specific membership fee for Linked Members as all clubs are different, the amount paid should include all SIGBI, Region and UKPAC fees, together with an amount equal to that paid by standard members to cover all club running costs.

Linked Members cannot hold office at any level.