**Region/NA/Country Report – 7 April 2022**

**Name: Maureen Collison**

**Region/NA/Country: Scotland North**

**All Region/NA/Country posts filled: No**

**Number of Clubs: 6**

**Total Membership - 110**

**Total PARF from 11 October 2021 – 7 April 2022: 31**

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| ***Membership*** |
| **What’s working well?**  Looking back at our Region membership figures, at the end of January 2020 we had 120 members, so it is heartening that after 2 years of Covid restrictions and with an aging membership we have 110 members now. I appreciate that numbers may change this month after Club AGMs but as far as I know the potential new members in the pipeline will balance out those transferring/leaving. With the relaxation in restrictions Clubs are looking forward to more face to face meetings including fundraisers and awareness raising events as well as socialising. We cannot underestimate the value of Soroptimist sister friendship and support. Most Clubs now have a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings. I feel our Region members seem closer now and know each other better as we are sharing more. We invite each other to Zoom speaker events and our Region meetings are better attended. The Region is able to offer more through Zoom meetings, an example being our February 2022 meeting when we had SI UN Reps from Paris, Geneva and Vienna speak to us. Going forward the Region is planning two Zoom meetings (over the winter) and two face to face meetings. Clubs are looking forward to our first face to face Region meeting for over two years in May, which will include an afternoon tea. |
| **Areas of Concern?**  These are the same as before, aging and declining membership, reluctance of members to take office and difficulty in recruiting. We are not alone in this and appreciate the work being done by the Board to help Clubs address these concerns. |
| ***Programme Action*** |
| **What’s working well?**  Our Region Programme Action Chair is excellent at giving ideas and guidance to Clubs through her monthly Spotlight Newsletter and in person. She has managed to have all 6 Clubs work together on two projects recently and continues to encourage our Clubs to work together on issues UKPAC are focussing on such as Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking. All Clubs are doing Programme Action, though not always completing a Programme Focus Report Form. |
| **Any Concerns?**  Some of our Clubs need to be better at completing Programme Focus Report Forms, as not all of the work they are doing is being reported on the database, even though they know the importance of this reporting. Speaking from personal experience I think the lack of members willing to take office impacts on this. To help the Club out someone volunteers to be named Programme Action Officer when she is busy doing other things, but then is left to do everything and the Programme Focus Report Forms tend to be put to one side. My only suggestion here is that the Forms are filled in regularly at Programme Action Club meetings. That way all members will learn how to do them and know everything the Club is doing, the latter being helpful in recruitment. |
| ***Any other comments*** |
| I think it is more and more important that Clubs focus on keeping their websites up to date and interesting, and use social media. We need to be proud of the work we do and tell people about it. Let our work attract new members. We should encourage Clubs who do not have members with the skills/knowledge/interest in websites and social media to work with other Clubs in this respect and ask for help from members in other Clubs who do have the skills/knowledge/interest.  The two Scottish Region Execs had a positive face to face meeting on Saturday 2 April 2022 where they discussed issues/challenges in common along with opportunities to work together. Another joint meeting (this time by Zoom) is planned for 20 June with Exec members in the meantime having action points to work on with timelines. |
| What support do you require to help you in your role?  This is my last Report as Federation Councillor for Scotland North. My successor, Fiona Larg of SI Inverness & Nairn, is looking forward to taking on the role and working with the other Councillors and the Board. She will keep focussing on the positive aspects and I am sure will be an asset to the Region and the Board in this role.  I believe it will be good to have at least one face to face Board meeting with the Councillors, perhaps annually at Conference. This would help the Councillors and Directors to get to know each other better, and will perhaps erase some of the conflict and negativity we have seen in this last year or so.  **Health of Region**  Fiona and I feel that our Region should be congratulated on surviving with 6 Clubs after 2 years of Covid restrictions. Our two northerly Clubs, Inverness & Nairn and Easter Ross are still there working away with 10 members and Easter Ross has 2 prospective members. Fiona says of her Club that 18 months ago they were struggling to survive but now they have filled all the positions for their upcoming AGM and she feels their foundations are strong again. My Club, Dundee, is struggling a bit just now but we are celebrating our 90th birthday this month and I am sure there are enough dedicated Soroptimists to turn it around. Our other Clubs seem strong. |