

## **Sandra Dieffenthaller**

### **SI San Fernando**

Sandra has been an exemplary Soroptimist for 30 years and is today the 'go to' person whom all clubs and members consult, as she keeps up with Soroptimism worldwide. She has held all club posts except Treasurer, having no expertise in that area. She is a driving force in most Club activities. She provides training for new and potential members and knows how to spot talent and motivate members to move up in the organisation. She never misses an opportunity to introduce someone to Soroptimism or to relentlessly approach family, friends and the business community for club donations. She often hosts Club functions at her home and is quite the cook and hostess - nine Federation Presidents have enjoyed her home hospitality over the years.

As a former Councillor and now incoming President of the National Association for the second time, Sandra conducts training with all our clubs and has initiated and led the development and charter process for three of the seven clubs in Trinidad and Tobago.



Sandra has also contributed to the Caribbean Network, serving on the Executive Council as Membership Officer. She assisted in the revival of SI Providenciales in Turks & Caicos and in the hosting of the Federation Conference in Barbados. In 2007 Caribbean Soroptimists honoured her with the Caribbean Soroptimist Award.

As SIGBI Membership Director on the Federation Management Board from 2004-2007 she conducted training sessions with several clubs in the UK, and also in Nigeria and Cameroon on her visit with the then Federation President. Since she attended her first Federation Conference in 1997 Sandra has become a permanent fixture at all Conferences and also attended three SI Conventions over the years, serving as MC for the closing night of the 2007 SI Convention in Glasgow. Her participation in the Study Tour of the Meru Garden Project in Kenya in 2018 led her to adopt an under-privileged Kenyan university student who is thriving under her guidance and moral and financial support.

Sandra taught Biology at a leading boys' college for 20 years and after early retirement was the most sought-after teacher for private tuition. Today all her students (including many prominent doctors) hold her in very high esteem, as she not only taught Biology but contributed to their overall education and development.

Sandra served as Chairman and Manager of the Club's Home for the Elderly for 14 years and aided in the transformation of the Home. She also served on the Mental Health Committee of the South West Regional Health Authority, was the Chairman of a Local School Board and volunteered part time for 7 years teaching Biology at two secondary schools in San Fernando. She also ran a stall for 8 years in the church bazaar. She's a member of the Wild Fowl Trust and of the Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists Club.

Sandra has been married to Michael for the past 42 years and has a daughter and two granddaughters.