LISEtte GenseBerger

Lisette Desirée Genseberger embodies the values and ethos of Soroptimism! Her membership has spanned over 35 years and two countries! Born and raised in Cape Town South Africa, she joined Soroptimist International in 1985, where her mother was still an active member. Thus her association with SI goes well beyond her official 35 years.

After moving to the Netherlands with her husband, she joined SI Club Zwolle from 1994 – 2004 and in doing so has developed a unique sense of what Soroptimism means to women across diverse continents and how unifying and powerful a movement it is!

Lisette is a nurse by profession and has extensive experience in her field having worked in diverse environments throughout her career, including a women's prison. Currently Lisette runs her own Chiropodist and Reflexologist Practice in Cape Town.

Within South Africa as well as the Southern African region, Lisette has most definitely made her mark. She is a clear voice in our ever changing landscape and always meets challenges head on. Her passion, drive and commitment to Soroptimism is electrifying and always serves as a motivator for club members. She has shown an understanding of the challenges being faced by many Clubs in our region and has always tried to be a part of the solution. She has been a sounding board and trusted source of advice for many, which is incredibly important especially now that Africa is at this new and exciting precipice.

Over the years, Lisette has fulfilled many Executive level positions in her Club, Country and Continent. Most recently she has been an instrumental member of the Task Team who was successful in the establishment of the SI African Federation (SIAF). This sort of visionary leadership is requisite for organisations like ours to survive and we are truly honoured to have Lisette, along with others, guiding our new Federation on the path to success.

SI Durban chose to nominate Lisette for the reasons listed. She is a woman of great character and a force for good, and we are excited to see what our common Soroptimist futures look like together!