Spring Newsletter for Midland Arden Region

To Midland Arden Soroptimists’, Happy New Year to you All,

Since I last wrote, pre my induction at Glasgow Conference, life has been fairly busy. Obviously there was the Glasgow conference, which was excellent. Everyone appears to have completely enjoyed it. The speakers were excellent, the venue was good and I think we all came away inspired. It was really good to see a large contingency from Midland Arden taking in all the information from Associate Members being vote in; and hearing about the 2016 conference in Malta. Jill and I did our change of Insigina with Federation President Margaret Elmsley, this really appears to take a long time to happen and then it is over in seconds.

During November and following the Glasgow conference, Steve (my husband) and I went to a Midland Chase dinner where they held a ‘Change of Insigina’. The idea was new to me as the Chase Region do things differently to us. This event enables those who did not go to conference, for whatever reason, to get a picture of what did happen in the Change of Insigina ceremony. They repeat the happenings of conference for their new Regional President and Immediate Past President by re-exchanging their chains of office for all the region to see. Also and most importantly, I felt, they have two of their own Soroptimists’, one a virgin attendee at conference; and one a regular attendee, give an overview of their experiences. Given this new idea I thought that as a region we should consider something similar, too late for my year but perhaps other future Presidents could think this over.

We held the first Regional Officers meeting of my year at The Coach House in Stourbridge and as the Coach House is a charity, we effectively supported them by hiring their premises; and also supported another charity, Top Church Training, who provided the refreshments, essential for those coming straight from work to the meeting.

November continued to be busy with an excellent study evening on ‘Violence Against Women’ with SI Central Birmingham at the Cobden Hotel. Well done to them for it was really well attended and I know that ‘tweets’ were wobbling out everywhere. My own club, SI Stourbridge, held its annual Literary Dinner at Hagley Golf & Country Club and then we also went to SI Wolverhampton’s annual lunch.

Early December saw my first meeting as President of the Region and I believe from comments I have received that everyone enjoyed, firstly the venue; then the speaker Paul McGowan who informed us about investments in particular those made by pension funds here in the West Midlands; the stalls and finally the lunch. My thanks to Linda Cocksedge for doing all the bookings for this event and to Margaret Jarman for suggesting Paul as a speaker.



The photo here shows Steve and I with members of SI Hereford who invite us to share their celebratory Christmas lunch with them at Aylestone Court Hotel. I think every member was there, good luck to them and hope that they gain more new members in 2016.

During this period we went to see the film ‘Wicket Warriors’ and this is where our home began to be like a box office, for following the showing; and a show of hands at my club, I went and booked the Electric Cinema for a repeat showing on the 19th February, 2016. At the point of writing I have sold 62 of the 73 seats and am now into profit, which will go to the charity ‘Cricket Without Boundaries’. My thanks to all of you who have bought tickets and I hope you enjoy this film.

Our final outing during the period was to SI Bromsgrove & Redditch for a Quiz with fish and chips supper, an excellent event which we really enjoyed.

Members of ROC and I have been planning for the two support days in February, the first one being 13th February @ 10.00 at Bentley and the second one on the 27th February @ 10.00 at Olive Bird Hall, Solihull. The idea of two days is to help facilitate as many of you as possible being able to attend. Please come along and hopefully share in how we all develop and move forwards.

We have also been looking at having a stand at a teacher’s conference at the ICC with a view to gaining more members for the whole of SIGBI and to raise awareness of Soroptimist International. This though is not as yet finalised as we are awaiting further information on costs and support.

Finally can I remind you all that I would really like to come along to your clubs not just to events but also to your business meetings. Please invite me along.

In friendship

Su Roxburgh January, 2016

Regional President

Midland Arden Region