

Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Number 8: Spring 2015



Hello ladies and a warm welcome to my second newsletter. I do hope that 2015 has started well for you and your Club. I always feel after the New Year/winter break, it is good to get back into routine, and get those Soroptimist wheels in motion again!

As Regional President, one of my first duties of the year was a very sad one, as I represented the region at the funeral of Shirley Rosevear, of SI St. Austell & District. Her daughter, Kathryn Tucker is married to my twin brother Gary and introduced me to

Soroptimism some 16 years ago. Her mum Shirley was a wonderful lady and a club member for 34 years and Club President in 1992. She will be sorely missed.

Thank you to those who have replied regarding support for SI Barnstaple's quest in nominating their excellent project Knickers for Knowledge to be considered as the next Federation Project. If you have yet to respond, I look forward to receiving your e-mail.

It was my pleasure to attend the New Members' Day at Tiverton on the 7th February. It was very well organised and presented by Jackie Mosedale, Irene Hockin and Di Hill who, in turn, talked on all aspects of Soroptimism. It was informative but informal and we all had a great day. (Please see photographs)

I am now planning the next Regional meeting which will be on March 21st at Taunton. I extend a warm welcome to every member who would like to come. We will be hearing from Jackie Russell of Women's Breakout and we are particularly looking forward to welcoming our **Federation President, Jenny Vince** who is visiting us for the day and will be presenting SIGBI - 'The Way Forward'. An action packed day! As it will be World Water Day on the following day and as WaterAid is our regional project, I invite all delegates to wear **BLUE** to the regional meeting. There will be a water themed quiz during lunch with a water themed prize! Do come and enjoy the day with us!

Regional President Kay.

President Elect Diane

Please note that an email containing an invitation and questionnaire has been sent from Regional Secretary Audrey reference the lunch time meeting for all **Club President Elects** at the next Regional meeting on Saturday 21st March. If you are unable to attend then please forward the completed questionnaire back to me beforehand.

As my year is fast approaching, your clubs are probably preparing your Annual Lunches/Dinners and Friendship Weekends already for next year. I am very much looking forward to visiting all the clubs. However, I shall be disappointed if some of the event dates clash because I will have to choose which club to visit. Therefore, before making your final decisions could you please contact Regional Secretary Audrey to check if this may be the case? The Regional meetings have already been allocated so please refer to them as well.

Many thanks

In support of
WaterAid

My regional project is called 'Small change to make a Big change' and is designed to be a simple way to raise funds for WaterAid which can include every member of your Club. Every member should have a small blue pouch from the last regional meeting. The idea is simply to ask each member to fill their own pouch with small change, up to £5.

Thank you all in anticipation for taking part!

Wear Something Blue to the Regional Meeting to support World Water Day

Regional Meetings are held at
The Catholic Centre,
Taunton.

2015

21st March - 2nd Meeting

20th June - AGM & Conference

Kingsley Village Conference Hall, Penhale,
FRADDON, Cornwall

19th September - 3rd Meeting

Dates for your Diary!

New Members Day Saturday 28th February
Bath Lunch Sunday 22nd March
Tiverton Dinner Saturday 28th March

Federation Councillor – Wendy Plaice

The Growth Plan – So far 2 clubs from our Region have been accepted to participate in the Growth Plan, SI Barnstaple & SI St Austell.

Social Media - You can't ignore it.

There are Workshops at Glasgow on Thursday 5th November. Is there someone from your club who would like to know more about Social Media and your Club? – Book early.

Federation Councillor - Do you have someone in your club who is interested in representing our Region at the Federation Consultative Council, influencing the Board on how our Organisation is run. **She does not have to have been a Region Officer.** She has to have been your elected Club representative to the Region Council for at least one year and either be a current club rep or have been so within the last 5 years. When you are 'voting in' your delegates at your forthcoming AGM, bear this in mind if you have an experienced, enthusiastic Soroptimist who would like to go further. Check out the website for the full role specification.

Future Dates for your Diary
2015 – 2016

- 21st November 2015- Regional Meeting
- 12th March 2016 - Regional Meeting
- 25th June 2016 - Regional AGM
- 24th September 2016 - Regional Meeting

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Keynote Speaker at the
Regional AGM
Hilary Ratcliffe OBE

Membership & Development Officer - Jackie Mosedale

At a **Membership Day** held in Tiverton on 7th February, a total of 30 new members, not so new members and prospective members came together to learn more about our Organisation.

Together, we reviewed the structure of Soroptimist International, from membership of a club to International President. Irene Hockin gave an in-depth account of what our Programme Action means and how it impacts on our status and respect at the United Nations. A question and answer session gave everyone an opportunity to ask questions on topics that had not been covered. Sadly, a video depicting our Region Project was not compatible to our technology, something we have reviewed and corrected. We did however, explain the project as an example of how alone we cannot achieve a great deal but together we achieve a huge amount.

Irene Hockin led an exercise, a Power Walk which brought home how different our lives can be depending on where we are born and within which culture.

A second event is planned at Falfield, South Gloucestershire for **Saturday 28th February**. Thanks to members' feedback at Tiverton, we can further develop the programme for the day and consider materials for club use in recruitment and induction of members in the future.

Thanks must go to all who attended, to Di Hill and Irene Hockin for their contributions and to President Kay for joining us despite her many Region duties.



Di Hill, Irene Hockin & Jackie Mosedale



Catherine Hannaford, Jane Bridges & RP Kay Turner



Vice RP Daphne Dowsing with members enjoying the day

Programme

Plan of Procedure

Action

Process of doing something

There is always going to be something for us as Soroptimists to do – whether that something be big or small – but take steps towards what you want to achieve.

Look for the opportunity

Work out the strategy

Made a plan

Take action

See the results – and share them !

Irene Hockin

Regional posts for consideration 2015-2016

Membership and Development Officer: - Jackie Mosedale will not be eligible to continue for the next Regional year. This post will be open for nominations.

Benevolent Fund representative: - Christine Briggs can be re-elected. This post will be open for nominations.

Vice President: - To follow on after Daphne Dowsing. This post will be open for nominations.

Jane Goodall, UN Messenger of Peace said: You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.