

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

International Goodwill and Understanding (IGU)

Programme - Action - News

No. 2, 2008-09

The summer is soon here, and with that also the European Congress in Amsterdam 10-12 July, where many of us will meet. The Congress days feature great speakers, with interesting lectures on the theme “Soroptimists Go For Water”, with workshops, project awards and numerous occasions of getting together with old friends and getting to know new ones, so I hope that you have registered? Please also use the days in Amsterdam to take contact with your Friendship Links and attend the Open Heart/Open Door luncheon, Saturday July 11, widening your contact net all over the world.

Before the Congress there is the Governor’s Meeting, the yearly big meeting of all the Unions’ and Single Clubs’ representatives, with lots of reports to go through, important decisions to be taken and elections to be held. A pleasant task during January/February has been to go through the appr. 50 Programme Focus Reports/PFRs that you have sent in and which are linked to my programme area IGU. I like to thank all of you for the fantastic work you have accomplished with your projects!

Many reports have come from the Italian, Turkish and German unions, and this year I am also very pleased to see an interesting first water project in my programme area, from the Italian Club Gorizia, titled “*A river across two countries; maybe a problem?*” The most common objective concerning IGU is *Objective no 8* with the words “intercultural” and “tolerance” in it, as a key note for the clubs to strike, like in the Finnish PFR from the two Turku Clubs, arranging 5-O Seminars together with Unifem.

For *Objective no 7* there is a very good example from the Danish club Toender, getting information from the Red Cross and from Congolese refugees about their situation and – furthermore - planning to do something about it! Also the German club Kiel’s Project Women’s Meeting Place/Frauentreff shows good initiative in supporting those in need. But there are many activities reported on by industrious sisters in many countries, some of which we can not directly call projects. My recommendation to the clubs is to think one step further before sending in the PFRs: *Can we do something more in order to make this club activity a “full blown” project which will be of importance to other people and will make a difference for those in need?*

I greatly admire all the hard work that the clubs are doing to make the world a better place to live in for those less fortunate, BUT I also know that there are MANY good club projects still not reported in, and it really would be great to hear about them all. So for all of us, working towards personal goals, Soroptimist goals or something even bigger, I like to end this informal part of the News Letter by quoting *the Swedish poet Bo Bergman (1869-1967)* who had a lot to say about the way Fate can break in and control our lives:



*We toil with our spade, our needle, our pen
Working towards the goal for all men
But the goal we are searching is there, on the road
And slowly at nightfall we lay down our load
Disposing of spade and needle and pen
Pretending we’ve reached our goal, once again!*

*Ann-Christine Söderlund, Tornby Gård,
SE-582 73 LINKÖPING, Sweden
Phone: ++46 13 12 46 59; Fax: ++46 13 12 65 05;
E-mail: acstornby@swipnet.se*

THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION

IMPORTANT DATES 2009

For more info, see www.soroptimisteurope.org

May 9: Charter Lugano Lago, Switzerland

May 15: International Family Day

May 24: SI/E Peace Marathon in Kigali, Rwanda
www.kigalimarathon.com

May 30: Charter Arouman de Guyane, France

May 29-June 4: Club Boyana, Bulgaria "Thracian
Treasure Tour www.thracian-treasure-tour.bg

June 6: International Day for Environment

June 6: Charter Windischgarsten-Kremstal,
Austria

June 7: End Hunger: Walk the World
(End Hunger-Walk the World is a global event started
2003. How to organise a walk? See www.WEP.org)

June 12-14: Charter Dessau-Wörlitz, Germany

July 8-9: Governors Meeting in Amsterdam

July 10-12: SI/E Congress in Amsterdam –
info@soroptimistsgoforwater.nl

July 17-19: 10-year Anniversary Club Neva,
S:t Petersburg, Russia. For info, contact:
luba@nordictravelrussia.com

August 16-22: World Water Week in Stockholm,
Sweden, see www.worldwaterweek.org

LATEST BUZZ, PHOTOS AND INFO ABOUT SI/E ON THE INTERNET:

<http://www.soroptimisteurope.blogspot.com/>
<http://soroptimisteurope.tumblr.com/post/90758523/e600-000-for-water-projects>
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=26400984875&ref=ts>
http://www.myspace.com/soroptimist_europe
<http://www.youtube.com/SoroptimistEurope>
<http://www.soroptimisteurope.blogspot.com>
<http://soroptimist-europe.tumblr.com>
<http://vimeo.com/soropteurope>
<https://twitter.com/SIEurope>

Spread the buzz to all your contacts and inspire your friends, on our SI/E platforms: Combined with the Link and www.soroptimisteurope.org, we can all make a difference!

NEWS FROM OTHER FEDERATIONS

Grant of Friendship Victoria Region, SI of the South West Pacific (TIS No 1, March 2009)

Invitation extended to one active English-speaking Soroptimist residing outside Australia for two weeks in October 2009. You pay your own travelling to and from Melbourne, Victoria. 14 clubs in the district offer homestay for two weeks. When there, the applicant is expected to give informal speeches at club and regional meetings.

Application in English before June 1st to:
Shirley Reynolds, 1 Florence Street, Seddon,
Victoria 3011, Australia.

SI MATTERS

SI Quadrennial Project 2007-2011:

www.projectSierra.org
<http://siprogrammeblog.blogspot.com>

SOROPTIMISTS AND THE UN – INTERESTING LINKS

Rights to food and water:
http://www.hrea.org/index.php?base_id=145#intro

Gangs and girls
<http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2244>

Join the 2009 Campaign to fight Child Abuse.
Registration Form enclosed:
http://www.woman.ch/children/files/Registration_Form_E.pdf

Ad Hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
<http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/StandardSetting/Violence/>

www.saynotoviolence.org