

PROGRAMME NEWS

No. 4, February 2010

Dear Soroptimists,

It is an incredible delight to hear that the Programme News is read widely within our Federation. There are still members we need to reach with this information thus please disseminate the Programme News as widely as possible to all Soroptimists or even non-Soroptimists. And remember you can also find it on our website! **Thank you** all for your support!

SI/E Best Practice Awards

This year, again, SI/E Best Practice Awards will be given to exemplary projects in all **10 Programme Focus Objectives**:

- 1) Eliminate poverty and gender discrimination through ensuring women's full social and economic rights
- 2) End human trafficking and all forms of violence against women and girls
- 3) Ensure access to health care for women and girls
- 4) Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases
- 5) Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources
- 6) Mitigate the effects of climate change and integrate sustainability into personal choices and government policies and programme
- 7) Meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflict and disasters
- 8) Promote peaceful conflict resolution, inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn genocide and terrorism
- 9) Ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan
- 10) Assure women's advancement in management, politics and decision-making

A separate leaflet was sent out specifying the selection criteria and process. All nominations have to be submitted by **15th March** and the winners will be announced during the Governors' Meeting in Ghent in July. We would like to ask all Union Presidents to communicate with your clubs the details of the SI/E Best Practice Awards.

Long Term Project

The LTP will be launched at the SI Convention in Montreal, Canada in 2011. The main goal is to

mobilise all Soroptimist clubs across the globe towards one topic. In the coming months, a number of topics will be presented to SI clubs. It is then up to the clubs to choose the topics from the proposed list. These results are due to the Federation Headquarters on **15th June**. More communication and detailed information on the LTP will follow.

Beijing +15 NGO Forum



2010 marks the 15th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. Recognising this anniversary, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women is organising NGO Global Forum for Women: Beijing +15 on **February 27 & 28, 2010** in New York to review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). Interesting sessions include "Advancing Women's Rights 1975-2010" and the analysis of the contemporary "State of the World's Women." The intention is to come up with concrete action plans on how to address the many challenges women still face 15 years after Beijing. You will find details of all the events held during the NGO Forum on <http://www.ngocsw.org> and on SI Programme blog <http://siprogrammeblog.blogspot.com/> which will give a daily report from Soroptimists' perspective and experience.



ON THE BRIDGE on 8th March 2010

Women for Women International is organising a march in London on International Women's Day on 8th March in partnership with the National Federation

of Women's Institutes. Women will create images of peace and exhibit them on the bridge. The message is that women build bridges for peace. This campaign is a global campaign and it would be wonderful to have the support of Soroptimists worldwide. To see more information, please visit <http://www.womenforwomen.org/> and read the "grassroots toolkit" which outlines how to go about organising your own local bridge event.

The World is Queuing for a Toilet. Are You?



World Water Day, 22 March 2010, is a crucial moment to raise your voice and awareness of the global sanitation and water crisis. World's Longest Toilet Queue is a campaign to show support for the 2.5 billion people who don't have access to basic human rights: a safe toilet and clean water.

Queues will be happening all over the world: this is a global mass mobilization bringing together campaigners to demand real change. Become a part of the WLTQ by organizing or joining a queue. Guinness world record qualification rules – be included in the attempt!

- Register your queue online at www.worldtoiletqueue.org
- Have at least 25 people queuing from 10 minutes up to 24 hours in a public place
- Have it take place on the 20-22 March 2010

Please contact suba@soroptimisteurope.org for more information.

Twinning of Mature & Young Unions or Single Clubs

This programme started in the fall of 2007 and the idea behind it is that by twinning mature Unions and young Unions or Single Clubs, they would all benefit, the mature by mentoring and the younger by learning. Some Unions have been already working together on projects and have now expanded their working-relationships into this programme.

What are the characteristics of a strong Union?

- Defined role for each member within the Union Board and where possible a constructive contribution towards the local clubs
- Good communication / flow of information to and from the Union, SI/E and to the clubs in the Union.
- A clear vision and mission of the Union is stipulated in a policy plan, so members know where their Union is headed and a strategic plan on how to get there.

How can a mature Union help?

- Through assisting the young Union or Single Club to set their aims and objectives.
- Through evaluating the role of the Union Board.
- Through a monthly Skype or Phone meeting between the mentoring Union and young Union Board or Single Club. At least once a year face to face meeting.
- Through guidance and participation in projects initiated by the young Union or Single Club.

After ten years, 10 mature Unions have been twinned with 6 young Unions and 4 Single Clubs. There is more twinning on its way! We can only urge more mature Unions to take on the responsibility and challenge! If you require more information about "twinning", please contact SI/E 1st Vice President Ulla Madsen, knud.fm@mail.tele.dk who is responsible for the twinning of Mature & Young Unions or Single Club from 2009-2011.

Launch of the SI Convention website



<http://www.si-montreal2011.org/>

Please send your comments directly to Suba Parthiban at suba@soroptimisteurope.org

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