

July 2009

Dear Soroptimist sisters,

I have just returned from the final Board and Governors' meeting of this Biennium - two years, which meant hard work but also the feeling of achievement in regard to several changes we managed to implement.

This letter will address the **changes** and their implications on your work in the Unions and Single Clubs.

As of the coming Soroptimist year, there will be **no more programme coordinators** on SIE level. Instead, we will have a Programme Director, Assistant Programme Director and four Vice- Presidents. During the first Board meeting in October, we will discuss how we will divide the multiple tasks of the Programme Department among ourselves. Fortunately, we continue to have the great support of our Programme Officer Suba Parthiban at the Headquarters in Geneva.

Meanwhile, we would like to ask all Unions and Single Clubs to forward **two** contact names and email addresses of Board members, who will function as programme liaison officers towards the Federation. To ensure an effective flow of information, we will also copy the Presidents in our communication with the respective liaison officers.

Not having programme coordinators anymore will also mean that we won't be able to send out our quarterly programme action news. We are still discussing how to replace these and I will send you further information regarding this after our first Board meeting in October.

We are glad to see that many more PFRs were submitted online during the past half year. This means that our clubs are now more conversant with the new reporting system. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement and I would like to ask you to continue encouraging your membership to report on their project implementation. The Union Presidents present at the Governor's meeting recommended to send all PFRs through the Union Board to ensure that club projects are known at the Union level too. Please discuss the procedure you want to use with your Board and let us know the outcome.

And lastly Anne Christine Söderlund and I would like to thank you all for the trust you showed in us by electing us as Assistant and Programme Director respectively for the coming Biennium. We will continue to do our best to serve the organisation and the Soroptimist mission of empowering women and girls worldwide.

With warm regards,

Ulrike Neubert  
SIE Programme Liaison Officer