

REGIONEWS

2018-2020 Board Members

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2018-2020 Pillar Chairs

Program: Colleen Schmidt

Dream It Be It: Suzanne Heron

Live Your Dream: Dana Martin

Public Awareness: Shirley Stewart

Fundraising: Sherri Smith

Membership: Colleen Penrowley

Celebrating Success: Jayne Carre



Greetings from London

Hello everyone – I am still at my family home and will be staying for a few more months to help the English side of my family. I'm really looking forward to coming back and attending Conference in the Fall. It will be lots of fun I am sure – your Conference Committee is doing a superb job of organizing and re-organizing the event.

Working from London is no easy task right now but I am pleased to tell you that the Region Board, and I am sure you are not the least bit surprised to hear this, have done an excellent job of stepping in to do the work that I am not able to.

Zoom meetings seem to be our new way of communicating. Some of you were already quite familiar with Zoom but I want to say congratulations to all of you who have tried something new and embraced it. It will be lovely to get back to our regular face-to-face meetings but in the meantime we have to be grateful for electronic communication.

For those of you on Facebook there is a lovely new group **SI #SocialIsolation Friendship Page**. Join us and hear what other Soroptimists, all over the world, are doing right now.

Our work is still so vitally important. Thank you doing what you can during this trying time. I'm looking on the bright side, drinking lots of tea and spending some very special time with my mother while continuing the work of Western Canada Region.

I hope to see you all soon – stay safe!

Governor Melanie



A reminder for clubs!! Start preparing your entries for submission in Fundraising, Membership, Public Awareness and Program due to WCR Chair by July 1st, 2020.



Website:
<https://wcsoroptimist.org>
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/wcsmembers



Save the Dates

Here are a few dates you may want to jot down so you won't miss out:

- ♦ **Western Canada Region Conference**, September 26-29, hosted by SI Surrey/Delta
- ♦ **SIA 46th Biennial Convention** in Bellevue, WA: July 22-25, 2020
- ♦ **Soroptimist 100th Anniversary Celebration** in San Francisco, CA: Oct 1-3, 2021
- ♦ **SI Convention in Dublin**, Ireland in July 2023.

When we are able to safely reschedule events, please let me know and I will include them in upcoming newsletters.

Shirley

If your club is having any events that you would like mentioned in the next Newsletter, please email the PA Chair, Shirley Stewart - mrmackb64@gmail.com

On this snowy morning in Red Deer, Alberta, I wanted to share a picture of a quilt that was donated to our IWD event, from a woman who was in the Vagina Monologues, which we were a part of, in that we are distributing the proceeds to very deserving agencies and organizations that help women in our community.



Our new tagline is on the quilt, *Investing in Dreams*. During these trying times, with so much on our minds, I try not to forget that as a Soroptimist, that is what we do, Invest in Dreams.

The women and girls we help still need us. My reminder to you today is that if your club was fortunate enough to have had a fundraiser before all the @#@\$%% hit the fan, please consider sending in your club giving portion. Our region is still benefitting from the funds raised, as our region winners will still receive their money this year.

Times are tough right now, please know I am still so sad I will not be seeing you all at the conference. I was so looking forward to getting away and spending time with my Soroptimist buddies, drinking some BC wine, and celebrating all we do in Western Canada for women and girls.

I received an email on Friday from Dona Gaddis Wolf, who is our liaison on the SIA fundraising committee. She writes:

"One thing I know for sure is that Soroptimist is a constant. We go with the flow and get better with each challenge we face. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue our work on behalf of women and girls, together."

Let's get bigger and better and continue to invest in dreams!
 Sherri Smith
 WCR Fundraising Pillar



A photo from SIEdmonton's International Women's Day Awards Luncheon held March 8th. Four Live Your Dream Award winners were honored and our 2020 Joy Award Winner, Dr. Josephine Pallard.



Congratulations SI/Tri Cities!!!

The club project submitted as their Fundraising Entry in Celebrating Success not only won at Region - they are now the Federation Finalist in that category!

Hooray for you and kudos to your impressive fundraising efforts called, "Fundraising as Friend Raising - A Strategic Approach to Partnership". Have a quick read of the project summary:

Federation Finalist

SI/Tri Cities (The), BC
Western Canada

Fund Raising as a Friend Raising - A Strategic Approach to Partnering

SI/Tri Cities (The), BC raised \$38,000 with their fundraising strategy —“friend raising.” The key to this strategy was building long-term relationships with their sponsors based on mutual commitment. They treated each sponsor as a valued friend by supporting their business, promoting them as Soroptimist champions, and thanking them for their efforts. The club offered a variety of engagement opportunities for partners, such Live Your Dream Awards sponsorships, in-kind donations, and donated media coverage. As a result of their efforts, the club attracted several partners to sponsor Live Your Dream Awards, received corporate sponsorship from 24 businesses, and retained 80% of their sponsors as repeat supporters.

Jayne Carre
Chair, WCR Soroptimists Celebrating Success 2018-2020

Are you looking for inspiring information to distract you a bit from the world around us right now? Check out liveyourdream.org. There's some great information on making a difference in our new virtual world.

Colleen Schmidt
Program Pillar Chair



100th Anniversary Celebration - We are SO going to be ready for this party!

Did you know that October 2021 marks Soroptimist's 100th anniversary? We will gather at the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel, October 1-3 to celebrate this auspicious event. More details to follow and be sure to save the date now!

Check out frequently asked questions at the link below to find out who is invited, the events planned during the celebration and more!

<https://soroptimist.imgix.net/05-for-members/whats-new/100-anniversary/2021-celebration-faq.pdf>



Hi everyone, Membership Chair Colleen Penrowley here!

How are you doing? We don't know how long this pandemic will last so let's all look after ourselves and each other as best we can. Let's maintain our connections with club members and other important people in our lives. Several clubs have experimented with online meetings using the Zoom videoconferencing system. Why not give it a try? For Region connections I have started hosting Zoom sessions on Sundays. The first time, we had members from nine different clubs all online. I will post the time and the link for each session on Facebook in the private group "Soroptimist Western Canada Members Only". Please join that group if you haven't already. If you aren't on Facebook but want the Zoom info just email me and I'll send it to you: cpen@telus.net.

Part of looking after myself involves getting regular exercise. I'm missing my yoga classes and my scheduled sessions at an exercise clinic. I know I can do yoga and work out at home but it's still a challenge to motivate myself. Creating a schedule helps, and I know the exercise makes me feel better. What's working for you? Do you bake? I'm seeing photos on Facebook of some delicious-looking sourdough bread made by one of our members!

Hang in there. We'll get through this and have an awesome conference in September!

Club Spotlight ~ SI Chilliwack *Submitted by Dana Martin*

It's shocking to see how things can dramatically change in one month. It's budget time for our club and with the cancellation of our PJ's and Pearls fundraiser it's going to be an interesting exercise (and year depending on how long this goes!). The club will be having our regular meeting, but on Zoom. We've already had a committee meeting this way and it was great. I think the best part though was just being able to check in, and see and hear how everyone is doing.

I was part of the WCR zoom call and it also was great. I hear Colleen P has figured out a way to keep us in line... as we tended to be too exuberant! I hope more people join in the next one.

We have had to change how we serve our clients for Heather's Hope Chest. Instead of having the clients come in person, we are sending them a list of supplies which they can check off. Then our volunteers go in (and keep to social distance requirements) and pick out and pack up the items. In this case they dropped off the supplies to their outreach worker. Thanks to Tri Cities for sharing their list of supplies.

I'm hoping we do get to get together for our conference in the fall. In the meantime, let's keep meeting online!





When you sparkle, you inspire everyone around you!

Be sure to mark your calendars with the new fall dates!
Join us September 26 - 29, 2020 to release all your pent up
Sparkle!!!



The judging is complete and we have 2 excellent women receiving the awards. The region finalist is from Victoria Westshore, and the other finalist is from SI Chilliwack. They will be getting their cheques very soon, and hopefully we can celebrate them at our conference.

Dana Martin
Live Your Dream Chair

“Turning Public Relations Challenges into Success”

Submitted by Shirley Stewart, Public Awareness Pillar Chair

Believe it or not that is the title of the Public Awareness Pillar presentation for our conferences! Seriously!? The challenges we all face right now with our community and global public awareness are epic to say the least.

The amazing Tri-Cities club is sewing up a storm and making community connections by supplying handmade gowns for local doctors. This frees up the industry made gowns for the hospitals. Way to go ladies!

We aren't all in the position to take on a project like this, but we all should be aware of how important it is to remind our communities and supporters that we're still there and taking care of the women and girls in our world. Have you presented the cheques to your LYD recipients yet? They don't need the fanfare right now, but they do need the funds. Be sure to let your local media know you've done that!

Do you have money that you have earmarked for organizations you support? Get it to them now! Again - through local media and social media - let people know who you're supporting and ask them to do the same. Profile the organizations on your social media.

We will have time when life gets back to “normal” to do the formal celebrations and photo ops, but we must work harder to be creative and remind people what we are Soroptimists and that we are here for our community.